History of T. H. Post Office

By DOROTHY J. CLARK

EDITOR'S NOTE—This is the second and final installment on the history of the Terre Haute post office.

Stephen G. Dodge was postmaster in Terre Haute in 1847, when mail arrived daily by two lines from St. Louis and Indianapolis: tri-weekly from Springfield, Vincennes and Covington; twice a week from Crawfordsville and Bloomington; weekly from Bedford and Carlisle. This made 27 post stages arriving in Terre Haute each week. I have seen a letter written in 1847, without envelope or stamp, sealed by a red wafer, postage "10" written in ink by the postmaster, from New York to Illinois. The four pages are closely written except a blank space across the middle of the fourth page so that when folded it would be on the outside to receive the address. Along with the making of quill pens, there was a method of folding letters which was one of the arts of the graceful correspondent of pioneer times.

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James T. Moffatt was a delegate to the Whig convention in Baltimore, and nominated Henry Clay for president. As a reward he was appointed postmaster of Terre Haute in 1849. Preston Hussey became his assistant in 1850 and remained until 1352.

The early post office in Terre Haute might properly be called a "separating" office. It was not technically a distributing office, yet it performed all the duties of such an office except the opening of letter packages and remailing the letters. All mail matter was overhauled here, separated and forwarded to its destination, except newspaper sacks from the east for Springfield, Ill., and St. Louis and points beyond. The post office had four-horse coach mail service from the east six times a week, also from the west and south six times weekly, a tri-weekly hack line to Crawfordsville, and a weekly mail southeast.

Joseph Jones Named.

On May 6, 1853, Joseph O. Jones was appointed postmaster by President Pierce to succeed James T. Moffatt. He held office until Feb. 23rd, 1854, and was then commissioned by the same president four years longer. At the beginning of the Fremont campaign of 1856 he openly severed his connection with the Democratic party, which action ended his official career. When he succeeded Judge Moffatt, the office was in a one-story frame building on the south side of Main Street a few doors east of Fourth street. Chauncey Warren then built the three-story brick on Fourth street south of the Warren Block, corner of Fourth and Main, and there the office remained until Dr. Read moved it to Sixth street.

Mr. Jones was again appointed by President Lincoln, and at the end of four years was re-appointed by the same president, but the appointment was not confirmed before the assassination. However, he was commissoned and served until the summer of 1866. After an interim of fifteen years he again became postmaster under Garfield's appointment. It is interesting to note that he was postmaster under two martyr presidents. He served his full term during Arthur's administration, and finally relieved of official cares in June, 1885, nearly 46 years from the date of his first appointment.

One of the curiostities of the Civil War is the following address on a soldier's letter:

"Pray Uncle Samuel take this note Up to Indiana to Terre Haute; And Postmaster Jones will the favor do To hand it over to Shelby Ballew. I'll frank it on its long: long tramp. For I've nary a red or postage stamp."

This is possibly one of the first examples of free postage accorded to the U. S military?

Pleasant Recollections.

Joseph O. Jones had many pleasant recollections of these early times: "Civil service reform had not been invented in those days. Postmasters and other government officers were supposed to have the same rights and privileges as other men. Then, if the postmaster made anything, he had to work for it. Office rent, clerk hire, fuel, lights, etc., all had to be furnished at his own expense. So much for the olden time."

In February, 1871, the new post office on Sixth street was being built. In March, a violent windstorm damaged the new post office and blew the roof off the old one, scattering bricks and lumber in all parts of the city.

In 1873 Nicholas Filbeck was appointed postmaster of Terre Haute, and served two full terms of four years each. It was during his term of office that Terre Haute became a second-class office and given free delivery. This order became effective in October, 1879, with six carriers and forty street boxes. By 1879 the post office gave employment to about nine clerks.

In 1880 the first story of a large building scarcely sufficed for postal accommodations. The mails were constantly departing and arriving over the various lines of railroad. William F. Arnold was the assistant postmaster; one money order and registry clerk; two mailing clerks;

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one box and general-delivery clerk; one general clerk; one supervisor of letter carriers and seven regular and one sub letter carriers; with the city divided into seven districts.

The above mentioned Mr. Arnold had been with the postal service in Terre Haute since 1862, beginning as stamp clerk. When he first became connected with the office there were about 700 boxes, and business increased so steadily that Oct. 1st, 1879, there were about 2,000 boxes, in addition to the seven clerks and six carriers.

Godfrey Arn Outstanding.

I found mention of another outstanding postal worker—Godfrey Arn, who began work as a general delivery clerk in 1865. He then became a mailing clerk, money order clerk, and then assistant postmaster under Jones. In the fall of 1871, while Burnett was postmaster, the postmaster of Vicksburg, Mississippi, requested that Washington send him a good man to straighten up the business of that office Mr. Arn was chosen for this job, and from 1871 to 1875 he remained in Vicksburg as assistant postmaster and postmaster during the last three months of his stay, returning to Terre Haute in 1875.

On Dec. 13th, 1881, a bill was introduced in Congress to appropriate $150,000 for the purpose of securing the site and the erection of a suitable government building in Terre Haute. That is, the bill appropriated $75,000 and limited the total expenditure to $150,000. The government was offered nearly every desirable piece of property in town from which to choose, and the corner of Seventh and Cherry streets was chosen and the building started in the summer of 1884 and completed in 1887. D. C. Greiner was the postmaster during this time, serving from 1889 to 1892.

The life of this post office building was comparatively short, as it was torn down to make way for our present post office which opened for business in Sept., 1935. During the construction business went on as usual in temporary quarters at the southwest corner of Eighth and Cherry streets. One of the facades of the former post office was taken down on Dresser Drive and reassembled in Fairbanks Park.

The latest figures from the post office show quite a difference from the early times when a few letters were carried in the hat of Postmaster Coleman. There are now 70 regular carriers, 20 substitute carriers, 71 regular clerks and 18 substitute clerks employed in this office. In addition there are 2 mail handlers, 7 rural carriers, 2 special delivery carriers and 1 substitute. Included in the number of regular clerks are the 13 supervisors. Receipts for the calendar year 1955 were $1,179,834.62. The cancellations for 1955 numbered 21,778,098.

The following is a list of the Terre Haute Postmasters which is as nearly complete and accurate as is possible to make it:

Curtis Gilbert—Dec. 4, 1817, to Oct. 26, 1818.

John M. Coleman—Oct. 26, 1818, to Feb., 1828.

John F. Cruft—Feb. 1828, to Feb., 1830.

Francis Cunningham—Feb., 1830, to 1837.

George B. Graff—1837 to July, 1839.

Joseph O. Jones—July 29, 1839, to 1844 (first time).

Stephen G. Dodge—1845 to 1848.

James T. Moffatt—1849 to 1852.

Joseph O. Jones—May 6, 1853, to 1856 (second time).

Burwell H. Cornwell—1856 to 1860.

Edward B. Allen—1860 to 1861.

Joseph O. Jones—March 28, 1861, to 1866 (third time).

Dr. Ezra Reed—1866 to 1868.

Linus A. Burnett—1869 to 1872.

Nicholas Filbeck—1873 to 1881.

Joseph O. Jones—1881 to June, 1885 (fourth time).

John F. Regan—1885 to 1888.

David C. Greiner—1889 to 1892.

Allen H. Donham—1893 to 1896.

Frank E. Banjamin—1879 to 1900.

Samuel E. Gray—1901 to 1909.

Thatcher A. Parker—1910 to 1913.

John J. Cleary—1914 to 1922.

John A. Austermiller—1923 to 1926.

William G. Hays—1927 to 1931.

John W. Wood—1932 to 1936.

Jerome F. Shandy—1936 to 1950.

Frank L. Miklozek—1950 to present time.

Permanent Commission.

Frank L. Miklozek assumed the office as Acting Postmaster on July 1, 1950 after the death of Jerome F. Shandy, and received his permanent commission June 27, 1952.

Outside the city of Terre Haute we find that there were 27 post offices in Vigo County in 1890, namely: Atherton, Coal Bluff, Fontanet, Gilbert, Hutton, Libertyville, Nelson, Pimento, Riley, Sanford, Soonover, Vigo, Burnett, Edwards, Glenn, Heckland, Lewis, Macksville, New Goshen, Prairie Creek, St. Mary's, Vedder, Seelyville, Tecumseh, Youngstown and Prairieton.

By. 1902 Gilbert, Nelson, Vigo, Glenn and Vedder had been discontinued and Macksville changed to West Terre Haute. Blackhawk and Ehrmandale had been added to the list.

Now in 1956 here is the official list of post offices in Vigo County: Coal Bluff, Fontanet, Lewis, New Goshen, North Terre Haute, Pimento, Prairie Creek, Prairieton, Riley, St. Mary-of-the-Woods, Sanford, Seelyville, Shepardsville, Terre Haute, Idaho Station, Twelve Points Station, and West Terre Haute.

Another interesting phase of the postal service, the history of the air mail service, will be given in a future article.

History Of Fire Department

By DOROTHY J. CLARK

The history of the fire department really begins with the bucket brigades organized by the earliest citizens of the little village of Terre Haute in 1816. To put out fires both men and women formed lines and passed buckets of water drawn from wells, cisterns, canals and the river to the burning building. This primitive fire-fighting method was followed by the horse drawn dray and hogsheads of water.

To stimulate competition between citizens, the town council offered three dollars for the first barrel of water delivered at the fire, two dollars for the second and one dollar for the third, these amounts being in the nature of prizes for speed. After the first three hogsheads, a uniform price of 25 cents was offered until the fire was extinguished.

In 1839 the town council ordered a supply of poles with hooks, chains and ropes, and four ladders so constructed as to splice for reaching two or three stories.

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The preceding year they had purchased the first piece of fire fighting apparatus — a double decker hand pump fire engine costing $529 and named the "Deluge." On the rear water box was inscribed "Fear Not, We Come!" At this time the first fire wardens were appointed for terms of five years, namely: First Ward, John Crawford; Second Ward, Zenas Smith; Third Ward, Thomas Houghton; Fourth Ward, John S. Burget; Fifth Ward, Thomas C. Clayton.

No Public Cisterns.

At this time there were no public cisterns and few private ones. People used well water, and would hire draymen to haul water from the river for washing purposes. When a fire alarm came every drayman in town started in a wild dash to the fire, but first went helter-skelter to the river, where the hogheads were quickly filled. It was all a wild and exciting scramble of odd-looking men and old drays and spavined horses. John B. Hager drew a picture of one of these scenes at a fire over one hundred years ago. This drawing depicted Drayman Foreman with his dray and hoghead tipping over and water spilling out in the lead of the procession, closely pressed by Sam Earle and "Old Lot," the colored drayman laying the whip on his mule and his hat sailing away unheeded. The old cut is very animated indeed.

More Cisterns Ordered.

In 1840 more fire cisterns were ordered built, and a Hook and Ladder Company organized with T. A. Madison, foreman; John Crawford and A. L. Chamberlain, laddermen; James Hook, axman; John Warner, hookman; Z. Smith, ropeman, etc. Serving with the Fire Engine Company were: Groverman, Blake, H. Fairbanks, Danaldson, McGregor, J. K. Graff, L. G. Warren, S. C. Crawford, James Farrington, Thomas Dowling, J. F. King, A. B. Fontaine, C. Gilbert, John Seely, and others. The fire department owned one engine, one bell, one hose cart, 150 feet hose, two buckets, one glass lanthorn, one speaking trumpet, one coal stove and pipe, and two cisterns in the courthouse yard. The public hearse and harness for one horse were also kept at the fire station.

By the 1852 the old dray and bucket system of firefighting had been recognized as inadequate and citizens petitioned the town council for some first class equipment, etc. So, in 1856 another Hand Pumper Engine called the Mohawk was added. This proved too heavy to be pulled through the early sand streets.

In the year 1866 the incorporated city of Terre Haute bought its first steam fire engine, called Albert Lange No. 1, named after the mayor of that time. This engine was drawn by a pair of fine horses and got up steam in six minutes, ready to pump water through two lines of hose 165 feet. The next year the second steam engine was the furniture factory. In 1870 the purchased.

Old Engine Sold.

The old hand engine N. 1 was sold to Crawfordsville in 1869 for $600. The same year an alarm was purchased for $300, and placed on first steps were taken toward establishing a water works system. The Mohawk hand engine was sold to Effingham for $1,300. In Oct. 1872, the American fire alarm system was adopted and six boxes, one repeater and three large and one small gong purchased and placed at the cost of $2,500.

In the year 1885 the non-partisan metropolitan system was adopted, taking the department out of politics. Before this system was adopted, the firemen were discharged every time the city had an election, especially if the firemen belonged to the wrong party. Other changes were new uniforms and regular hours of work. This was the disappearance of the last vestige of the old volunteer fire department, a great institution in its day. The city had built a system of cisterns all over the city, some of which were still used in the suburbs as late as 1890 where the water mains did not reach.

In the old days there was a standing premium of five dollars to the company that turned on the first stream of water. This little premium became a bone of contention. To hurry and hustle and run for it was the waking and sleeping dream of the five laddies, and then to cut the hose of a rival company and turn the whole wild frolic into a fight and break a dozen heads was the fun of a lifetime. It was "anything" before being beaten in getting the first stream on the fire. No men could be more active and vigilant than these old volunteer companies, and their effectiveness could not have been excelled except for the disposition to play tricks on each other and stop fighting the fire to fight one another.

The most disastrous fires that have occurred in the city were the distillery of the Terre Haute Distilling Co. in 1886 with $60,000. loss; the Terre Haute Car Works, 1887, $240,012. loss; and the Normal Institute (now Indiana State Teachers College) in 1888, $100,000 loss.

In the year 1917 the fire department became completely motorized and the horse was left behind. All that remained of the old volunteer firemen's association in the city was the old No. 1 Northern Liberty Fire House built in the year 1857 at Third and Lafayette avenue; the bell from the old station is on the Sacred Heart Church on North Thirteenth street. The No. 2 bell hangs on the Westminister Church, Twenty-second and Wabash avenue, and the No. 3 bell at the Methodist Church at Fourth avenue and Center street. The Vigo No. 2 Engine was placed in the Smithsonian Institute at Washington, D. C., By Mr. Charles T. Nehf, Fire Dept. Historian.

In 1861 when President Lincoln issued a call for volunteer soldiers, over ninety per cent of the volunteer firemen enlisted. This patriotic act disrupted the fire system, but the spirit of the organization was kept up by the 150 members having water throwing contests and giving prizes to the winners. A fine solid silver Fire Chief's Trumpet was presented to the winners of the No. 2 company, and when this company was mustered out of service, the trumpet was given to the paid firemen and has been in the chief's office at Fire Headquarters since that time.

Recently I journeyed down to Chief Zenis Nicoson's office and with his kind permission copied the inscriptions on this beautifully engraved silver trumpet which is now nearly one hundred years old. After checking the inscriptions against the lists found in the old county histories, here are the names of these brave fire chiefs:

S. E. Gibbs, May 16, 1854 (first chief after city was incorporated).
T. C. Buntin, July, 1856 to 1857.
R. G. Cox, May 19, 1857 to 1859.
John C. Yates, May 1859 to 1861.

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John D. Bell, May 13, 1861 to 1863.
F. A. Bryan, May 1863 to 1865.
B. F. Dengler, 1865 to Jan., 1866.
F. A. Bryan, Jan. 1866 to May, 1866.
John D. Bell, May 1866 to 1871.
W. L. Wright, April 20 to May 13, 1871.
William VanBrunt, May 13, 1871 to 1874.
Stephen Mahoney, May 19, 1874 to May 16, 1876.
Henry Ramme, May 16, 1876 to May 16, 1877.
Joseph H. Schell, May 16, 1877 to Aug. 21, 1878.
V. G. Dickout, May 20, 1878 to Sept. 10, 1880.
W. K. Burnett, Sept. 10, 1880 to Dec. 5, 1882.
L. C. Kretz, Dec. 5, 1882 to May 11, 1883.
John Kennedy, May 8, 1883 to April 1, 1884.
L. C. Kretz, May 15, 1884 to May 25, 1885.
Joseph H. Schell, June, 1885 to 1888.
John Kennedy, May 8, 1888 to May 14, 1890.
J. D. Jones, May 14, 1890 to May 18, 1892.
"Red" Rowe, 1935 to 1939, was latest inscription on the trumpet. Our Terre Haute Fire Department has a most interesting history, from the bucket brigade of 1816 to our modern facilities of 1956, one hundred and forty years of service to its citizens.

Oil Wells To Bathhouses

3-10-57

By DOROTHY J. CLARK

Probably the first public bathhouse in Terre Haute was the one at the Terre Haute House. In 1865 Chauncey Rose attempted to bore a well for water to supply the Terre Haute House, which he owned. Instead of water, the drillers struck petroleum oil, and later in trying to get a better flow of oil, got artesian water of the sulphur variety instead. In order to use this water profitably, he erected a frame bathhouse near the east end of the Terre Haute House which was used for several years. It was finally discovered that the fumes of the sulphur water ruined the silverware of the hotel and the original well was plugged up.

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Mrs. C. Weir Kirk, a member of the Vigo County Historical Society, told me this interesting little bit of her family history. It seems that her grand-uncle, Reinhard Zimmerman, was valet and bodyguard of Chauncey Rose. When he first came to Terre Haute from Germany he lived just north of where Gillis Memory Chapel is located now. The Linden trees still standing there were brought over from Germany and planted by him. His nephew, George S. Zimmerman (Mrs. Kirk's father) had come to this country with him as a young lad. Because of his fine rosy cheeks which made him look to be the very picture of health, he was employed by Chauncey Rose to stand out in front of this bathhouse and drink the mineral water whenever customers arrived. Though he could only speak German, not a work of English, he was a walking advertisement to show the dubious that if they would only drink the water, how healthy they could be also.

More Water Found.

Some years later another oil well was bored at the foot of Walnut street, and instead of oil the drillers got the same kind of mineral water found at the Terre Haute House. This well was located about 200 feet south of Walnut street and 100 feet west of Water street. It was 2,000 feet deep and the water was 85 degrees. One source states that this Magnetic Mineral Springs Bathhouse was established in 1871. Another source gives the date as 1882 when the bathhouse and swimming pool were built at this location. It was first operated by Ira Delano, and from him passed into the hands of several people successively, and was finally owned by George Faris when it was destroyed by fire.

In 1889 another oil well was bored at Tenth and One-half and Chestnut streets. At 1,800 feet the same artesian water with a high sulphur content was found. On March 10, 1890, David Bronson threw open the doors to the public of one of the most attractive and luxurious bathing establishments to be found anywhere. This was known as the Exchange Artesian Bath House opposite the Union Depot. It was a large two-story brick structure erected for the purpose and contained 40 bathing rooms. The interior was finished in Georgia pine and no expense was spared. The rooms were all high, well-ventilated and supplied with indurated fibre tubs. Besides the regular baths, several rooms had been fitted with vapor baths. In the basement of the building were the Turkish and Russian baths. Apartments were provided for the ladies under the supervision of Mrs. Bronson. In addition there were parlors and sitting rooms for both ladies and gentlemen.

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Curative Effects Claimed.

Remarkable curative effects were claimed for this artesian water. One advertisement stated that "although so recently introduced to the public, it has been practically demonstrated that it is a radical cure for chronic, inflammatory and muscular rheumatism, eczema, salt rheum, scrofula and in fact any eruptions of the skin, blood poisoning from any cause, paralysis, cancer, catarrh, dyspepsia and stomach troubles when taken internally and used in connection with bathing purposes."

Many other diseases were also supposed to have been greatly relieved by the use of this water. "The most wonderful cures in the shortest time have resulted from the use of these baths and the most delicate children use them with satisfactory results. Terre Haute, with fine hotels, a salubrious and healthful climate and first class consulting physicians, far outstrips most other locations of mineral springs for attractions to the afflicted. The result is that the Exchange Artesian Bath House is rapidly attracting stronger to partake of this rejuvenating water."

The bath house was open every day in the year and prices for bath were most reasonable. "Not even the Hot Springs of Arkansas are more invigorating and healthy and in no single instance has any sufferer failed to receive marked benefit from the use of these baths. Inquiries with regard to the medicinal value of this water will be promptly answered and testimonials of remarkable cures of long standing diseases may be seen." The prices of the Exchange were: hot and cold artesian water baths, 25c; vapor baths, 35c; Turkish and Russian baths, $1.00. The bath house was open from 5 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. daily except Saturday when they remained open to 11:30 p.m. "Patrons of the baths can have the water free of charge in quantities of one or two gallons for drinking by calling at the bath house for it."

Later the bath house was operated by his sons, Ross and Harry Bronson. In 1921 the building burned, a common fate of so many of these bath houses. The Bronson brothers had many and varied careers. Harry O. Bronson was born in Terre Haute during the same year that Chicago experienced her great fire. He attended Notre Dame through his junior year, and then attended Rose Polytechnic for a time. He was in the revenue office four years, a deputy under Judge Jump. Next, Mr. Bronson was associated with his brother in the manufacturning of workingmen's garments, the plant being located at Tenth and Chestnut. A fire destroyed the factory and they then conducted the bath house and roller skating rink on Tenth street until the Coliseum was built.

Daniel Ross Bronson was born in Terre Haute in 1871. He spent four year at Notre Dame University taking a literary course. Then he went to the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, a graduate of the class of 1892. He returned to Terre Haute and practiced law. When David Watson was elected county clerk in 1894, Mr. Bronson became chief deputy. Three years later he resigned to go into the manufacturing business with his brother. The two brothers built and managed the Coliseum. (But that is another story . . .)

Our State and City Parks

T-S 3-17-57

By DOROTHY J. CLARK

With the arrival of Spring (and where is Spring more beautiful than in Indiana?), many Hoosiers are aroused from their winter lethargy and overcome with the urge to take to the highway. A visit to a park on a sunny Spring day is quite a tonic. Indiana can be very proud of her many state parks. Close by is Turkey Run State Park which has an interesting history in addition to being most beautiful.

Dorothy J. Clark

Captain Salmon Lusk, after doing his heroic bit in the Battle of Tippecanoe, was given one thousand acres on Sugar Creek in 1821. Here he lived and prospered, becoming a wealthy exporter of Indiana products—flour, meal, cured meats, etc., which he sent on rafts made of tulip poplar logs down the water ways to New Orleans. There the thrifty captain sold not only his produce, but also the logs in the rafts to New Orleans cabinet makers to make the furniture which is now finding its way back to Indiana as "southern antiques," when it was made out of Indiana Wabash-weathered lumber in the first place.

Lived As Recluse.

His son, John Lusk, inherited the land and lived there as a recluse for 35 years, refusing repeated offers to sell his timber to lumber merchants. He was an eccentric old gentleman, but his very eccentricity saved this locality with its natural beauty for the state. When he died in 1915, a loyal group of Hoosiers worked hard to secure it as a state park in commemoration of Indiana's 100th anniversary (1816 - 1916). It was established as Turkey Run State Park in 1916, all 1,301 acres. It was named Turkey Run because of great flocks of wild turkeys which sought refuge among its rocks and canyons. More than 200 species of birds, including some rare migratory species, have been identified there. Even the rare white heron was once reported wading in Sugar Creek.

Gift of Three Counties.

Near Jasonville, Ind., is Shakamak State Park. This area of 1,021 acres was a gift of Clay, Greene and Sullivan counties. It was established as a state park in 1929. The name "Shakamak" was originally given by the Indians to a nearby stream, meaning "River of Long Fish."

Speaking of names—do you know how the "Shades" was named? When this rugged, timbered area was acquired for state park purposes, it had been called "The Shades of Death" for many years. A pioneer tragedy explains the ghostly title.

Many years ago, according to history, only a few cabins were to be found in the territory and these were reached by dim foot trails. In one of them lived a sullen man who became very violent when drunk. He had married a young girl for his second wife and compelled her to become a drudge. When this man was intoxicated (which obviously was most of the time!) he would sharpen his axe and warn his wife that someday he proposed to kill her.

Finally the appointed time came. She suspected that he was bluffing no longer. "This is the day," he growled, then fell into a drunken sleep. The girl-wife picked up the axe and sank it into his brain. Then she trudged for miles, to the nearest cabin to give herself up.

Acquitted by Court.

As the man's threats were known to many of the neighbors, the court concluded that the wife had acted in self-defense and she was acquitted. Neighbors placed the body on an oxsled and conveyed it to a spot in the center of the forest where it was buried. Years later a party of young people dug up the skeleton, found the marks of the axe in the skull, and reburied it. Where the grave is actually located now, nobody can tell. As a result of the occurrence, the district became known as "The Shades of Death." Some years ago, however, when the park was promoted and the public invited to use it, the somber part of the name was dropped. To future generations it will be known simply as "Shades."

There was also an old Indian legend told about the Lover's Leap at the Shades. This story was given as another reason for the unusual name of the area. A high bluff within the area was supposed to have been where an Indian maiden leaped to her death after her brave had been killed in battle. It was believed by many of the early settlers that her ghost could be seen at certain times and her cries were heard. Present day realists could explain all this very nicely by pointing out that winds make strange noises blowing through trees and high rocks, and that anyone that wants to can see a ghost.

Huge Park Acreage.

For those who do not care to go too far from Terre Haute, there are over 600 acres of city park property. W. S. Rea donated 160 acres located at Seventh street and Davis avenue. This is the Rea Park 18-hole golf course. His wife, Mrs. Geraldine Rea, donated the clubhouse.

The only riverside park, Fairbanks Park, located at First and Park streets, was donated by the late Crawford and Edward P. Fairbanks and Mrs. Helen Fairbanks. This 38-acre area contains the Fairbanks swimming pool (not in use), the Chauncey Rose Memorial (the facade of the old post office) and Amphitheatre, Sunken Gardens, part of Dresser Drive and the Mineral Water Fountain.

Collett Park, the oldest, contains 21.10 acres at Seventh street and Maple avenue, was the gift of Josephus and Josephine Collett, parents of Mrs. Crawford Fairbanks.

Spencer Ball Park at Fourteenth street and Eighth avenue, was named for Spencer Ball, as he left income from approximately $25,000 for the use of the parks department. It contains 9.86 acres.

Deming Contribution.

Demas Deming donated Deming boulevard, along with $50,000 for improvements, and the city named Deming Park for him. It contains 160 acres east of Fruitridge and Ohio.

Torner Park and Community House was donated by Rebecca Torner, at Fourth and College. Simon Levi donated the income from $50,000 for music in the parks after the death of his sister.

A portion of Steeg Park was donated by the Beach and Gilbert families. Its high valuation is due to its business location, 3.85 acress at Fourteenth street and Wabash avenue.

Booker T. Washington Park, Thirteenth and College, is the only exclusive colored park. The colored swimming pool (not in use) was located there on its 5.32 acres.

Sheridan Park, Twenty - eighth and Beech, consists of 6.50 acres donated by Frank Miller, Albert Ownes and Felix Blankenbaker.

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St. Anthony Hospital, 1882-'57

6-16-57

By DOROTHY J. CLARK

In connection with the Diamond Jubilee Celebration this weekend at St. Anthony Hospital, I ran across this interesting account of the 25th anniversary of the founding which took place in September, 1907. One of the features of that celebration was an address by Dr. T. W. Moorhead, representative of the local doctors, whose speech covered the history of the institution very thoroughly. The following are the highlights from this address.

Dorothy J. Clark

"Prior to 1882 Terre Haute had no hospital, either public or private. The only public places offering shelter were the jail and the county poor house.

"About this time Dr. L. J. Willien, pioneer in abdominal surgery in the Wabash Valley, found himself in great need of competent nurses and a proper place for his patients. He took up the matter with two or three religious orders before he was able to complete final arrangements for their coming to Terre Haute. After being assured that it would be possible to secure the nurses, the next thing of importance was a suitable location.

Attention Called To Site.

"About the middle of July, 1907, hile answering a call to St. ary's, Dr. Willien happened to drive down Mulberry street where his attention was called to a two-story brick house on the northeast corner of Second and Mulberry streets. This house had been recently remodeled and intended as a hotel. It struck Dr. Willien as a good building in which to start a hospital or sanitarium, if such could be accomplished in Terre Haute, which was so badly in need of a place to care for its sick and injured.

The following day Mr. F. A. Ross, who was then engaged in the real estate business, informed Dr. Willien that he had the leasing of this building, and suggested that it be rented for that purpose. This was the first shelter of our Sisters of St. Francis in Terre Haute.

The credit for the support necessary to establish and maintain the institution belongs largely to Mr. and Mrs. Herman Hulman. She took up the matter with her husband and finding him in agreement, the question as to the future of the Sisters of St. Francis in the city of Terre Haute was answered. Many meetings were held with Mr. Hulman. Finally on September 11th, 1882, at 7 p.m., Sisters Raphael and Ambrosia arrived and took possession of this rather undesirable house. It was not long before the people demonstrated their respect and love for the daughters of St. Francis and in one year they could not accommodate the number of applicants at their institution.

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Building Outgrown.

At the end of the first year it was found that the building at Second and Mulberry was too small and not suitable for a hospital. The building would accommodate only 18 or 19 patients at one time. In consequence the Sisters had been obliged to turn away many from their doors. During this time the Sisters' benefactors in Terre Haute were quietly looking for a suitable location. By an accident, the property known as St. Agnes Hall, an Episcopal School, the present location of the hospital, was suggested to Mr. Hulman. Within a few days after the suggestion was made, he purchased the property on May 12th, 1883, before any of the intended plans were matured and presented it to the Little Sisters of the Poor as a tribute to the memory of his wife who had passed away the month previous.

Purchased For $30,000.

The buildings and the grounds occupied an entire square block which were purchased for $30,000. The buildings needed extensive repairs before they could be utilized as a hospital, and it was estimated that between $20,000 and $30,000 would be needed.

The daily papers took up the matter of contributions for the purpose, and advocated the contributors list to be known as the roll of honor. As time was precious, Mr. Hulman assumed all expenses and said that whatever was subscribed would be thankfully received.

The citizens of Terre Haute soon made up the balance—some like Mr. Crawford Fairbanks and Mr. Riley McKeen donated $1,000 or several thousand dollars each. The city and county (in 1895) paid $200 per month for their patients. Mr. Hulman, the chief benefactor, continued to make large contributions to defray the balance of the running expenses of the hospital. By 1895 there were 18 Sisters of St. Francis with Sister Mary Raphael at their head in charge of the hospital.

Tribute To Sister Raphael.

In the address, Dr. Moorhead paid a beautiful tribute to Sister Raphael, who was superior of the institution for 22 years. "During this entire time she was a constant sufferer from an organic disease of the heart. At her death the poor of Terre Haute lost a kind and gentle friend."

The charitable ladies of the city on Aug. 28, 1883, organized what was known as St. Anthony's Hospital Union, with a charter membership of 54. The first president,

VIGO COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

Mrs. Anna Richardson, the originator of the work, was justly styled as "Mother of St. Anthony's Union. In her undertakng she was advised and encouraged by Rev. V. A. Schnell, pastor of St. Patrick's church, and a large membership resulted.

Contract For New Wing.

In December, 1907, the contract was let for the building of a new wing to the hospital at the cost of $70,000. This new addition gave much needed space and increased facilities. In recent years many more improvements, much remodeling and modernizing has taken place and now St. Anthony's Hospital continues to serve our community with the most modern facilities available with approximately 250 beds.

In closing, a word about the man most responsible for the founding of St. Anthony Hospitai—Dr. L. J. Willien. He began his practise in Terre Haute in 1872. He was a native of Alsace, France, earning his European medical degree in 1863. Coming to the United States at the time of the Civil War, he practiced medicine first in Illinois before coming here. He received another medical degree at St. Loius in 1867. For many years he was physician for St. Mary-of-the-Woods College. Here was a man who recognized a need in his community and proceeded to do something about it.

A Visit To Memorial Hall

By DOROTHY J. CLARK 17-14-57

Memorial Hall, located at 219 Ohio street, is one of the oldest buildings in Terre Haute. It was built in 1834 (though a sign on the front reads "erected 1832") as the home of the Branch Bank of the State of Indiana. There were 13 of these banks scattered over the state and all were easily identified by their Grecian style of architecture.

Mr. Edwin J. Peck was the superintendent of construction of the building, as well as the bank buildings at Madison, Lafayette and South Bend. Each bank was identical with the tall massive columns supporting a plain entablature, making an impressive front porch.

Dorothy J. Clark

The Indiana State Legislature chartered the State Bank of Indiana in the winter of 1833-1834 for a period of 25 years. Thirteen banks known as Brance Banks were organized and Terre Haute was organized in the first year of the charter.

A group of our most prominent citizens met at the Court House on October 25th, 1334, and chose directors at a second meeting November 4, 1834. Demas Deming was chosen to be the president and James Farrington as cashier.

Bank Had Fine Credit.

During the whole of its existence from 1834 to 1857 (the charter lapsed in 1858), the credit of the State Bank of Indiana was not exceeded by any bank in the United States. Its regular annual dividends for 20 years averaged 10 to 12 per cent, and at the expiration of the charter, there was a surplus of 100 per cent to divide among the stockholders. When the finances of the state and nation were in a muddled condition during the panic of 1837, this state bank was an outstanding institution.

The Wabash Courier of December, 1858, printed the following well-deserved epitaph: ". . . let a monument be raised over the tomb of this Institution: 'Here lies the shade of a Bank that has paid all its dues, made a profit for the state, and went to an honorable grave' . . ."

This venerable landmark of Terre Haute's early village days went on to have an interesting and varied career. After the banking days were over, it was occupied for some years as a family residence. Then it was turned into a piano store. Still later it was transformed into a storage building and sort of a museum. It became known as the "Old Curiosity Shop," Mr. Zebulon Hearberlin, proprietor. His ideal was that his collection should comprise anything and everything that bore the mark of age. An old musket was the more highly valued for its broken fire lock; and a spinning wheel was more highly prized if it had lost its power to spin, etc.

A picture of the building when it was used as a junk shop shows the front porch divided by a ramp-like structure between the two middle columns leading from the front door to the sidewalk. This changed the appearance of the building, as we know it today.

Makes Tour of Building.

Mr. James A. Scarborough, custodian of the present Memorial Hall, was my guide through the building and its varied contents. Mr. Scarborough is a Spanish-American War veteran who served three years in Battery L, U. S. Seacoast Artillery. He enlisted at the age of 18, and is now 77 years old.

The front or north room is the original building, now about 122 years old. Up high in the skylighted dome are the portraits on glass of 17 men, arranged in a double row. Electric lights have been placed behind these portraits so the features can be more easily seen. Under each portrait has been painted the name and either the title or dates of service. "Demas Deming, 1836-1845; Curtis Gilbert, 1845-1853; Levi G. Warren, 1852-1865; Preston Hussey, 1865-1910 were listed as Presidents. The cashiers were: Nathaniel Preston, 1845-1849; Joseph S. Jenckes, 1849-1852; William R. McKeen, 1852-1854; Charles M. Warren, 1865-1893."

"Gen. Charles Cruft, Col. 31st Ind. Infantry; Wm. E. McLean, Col. 43rd Ind. Infantry; John P. Baird, Col. 85th Ind. Infantry; Alexander B. Crane, Col. 85th Ind. Infantry; Col. Richard Thompson; Wm. H. Fairbanks, Col. 149th Ind. Infantry; Robert R. Stewart, Col. 11th Ind. Infantry; Melville D. Topping, Col. Commanding 71st Ind. Infantry, and Robert N. Hudson, Col. 133rd Ind. Infantry."

Everything on display in Memorial Hall is either too high on the wall to be seen or behind glass that hasn't been washed. There are huge framed portraits of Presidents Washington, Lincoln and McKinley, Generals Sherman, Sheridan and Grant, and historic events such as Betsey Ross making the flag, Daniel Webster addressing the Senate in 1850 and many of the Civil War battles.

Show Prison Scene.

One of the most interesting framed pictures is a very large one of Andersonville Prison Camp, Sumter, Georgia, as it appeared August 1, 1864, when it contained 35,000 prisoners of war. This was drawn from memory by Thomas O'Dea. After seeing this very realistic panorama, one can better visualize some of the horrors described in the recent book—"Andersonville".

In the north room are many glass cases containing all sorts of Civil War relics, badges, uniforms, medals, guns, bullets, flags, etc. In a tall glass case are displayed the "uniform and equipment worn by Capt. John J. P. Blinn of Terre Haute killed in battle of Gettysburg, July 3, 1863"—two dark blue uniform coats complete with brass buttons and a red sash.

One case contained several drums, one of which was tagged, "Presented to Daniel Fisk for faithful service by Colonel Gorman of Fourth Infantry in year 1848."

On the fireplace wall I counted 80 small portraits of local Civil War Veterans. Most of these were autographed, but there were too many for me to copy at that time. I saw several framed under glass displays of Confederate money. There are framed charters for most of the patriotic and fraternal societies that have met at the Hall. Some are draped in black crepe denoting a death of a member.

Over the fireplace in the south room is a huge framed flag with only 38 stars arranged in a circular fashion. This is explained in gold letters—"presented to city of Terre Haute, July 4, 1878."

Carved in the stone is this information—"Welcome G.A.R. Remodeled May 23, 1921, through efforts of our friend Jerry Fitzgerald and comrade Thos. J. Cottom." In the north room is a large portrait of Jerry Fitzgerald with this below it—"the man whom we all love and honor for his untiring efforts in raising funds to rehabilitate Memorial Hall after it was condemned and saved it for G.A.R."

It seems to me our children would appreciate visiting this historic and interesting building with its priceless contents, the nearest Terre Haute can offer in the way of a museum.

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TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

Vigo Bell Is Town's Link to Bicentennial

Ts JUL 6 1975

By DOROTHY J. CLARK

Last week's column told the story of Col. Francis Vigo and his visit to the Fourth of July celebration held in his honor in 1834, just a few months before his will was written with the bequest for $500 for the purchase of a bell for the court house here.

Vigo County's first court house was built some time after 1818 and before 1823. It stood in the middle of the public square in the same location as the present court house, and was torn down before 1868.

The newly built building at the northeast corner of 3rd and Ohio streets became the "temporary" court house in 1866 and continued in that function for 22 years until 1888. Certainly the most permanent "temporary" use on record!

Construction on the present court house began in 1881, with a five-ton cornerstone put in place in 1884, and a formal dedication held on June 7, 1888. A special order was made by the commissioners for the clock atop the dome in which it was expressly provided that the gong should be the Francis Vigo Memorial Bell.

A decade earlier, the $500 paid by T. C. Buntin, recipient of the proceeds from Vigo's estate settlement, was used toward the $2,500 cost of the two-ton bell inscribed with these words: "By his will $500 of the cost of this bell were presented by Francis Vigo to Vigo County, Ind., A.D. 1887."

DOROTHY J. CLARK

On July 15, 1887, with the memorial bell physically on hand, the three Vigo County Commissioners, Levi W. Dickerson, Asa M. Black and Sanford S. Henderson resolved, "Now, therefore, we thank Mr. Buntin for his untiring labor in procuring the amount so justly and so long due to the legatees of the long-gone patriot. And we do hereby express our gratitude to the memory of Col. Vigo for his love and kindness and hope there never will be a time when the people of Vigo County will not revere his memory."

The Vigo bell has chimed the passing of the hours in downtown Terre Haute with few breakdowns for nearly a century. It is our closest link to the coming Bicentennial (1776-1976). The bell and its history form this community's only association with the American Revolution. Col. Vigo provided the money to pay the men in Clark's army which recaptured Vincennes from the British and assured this new nation of its independence as the United States of America.

The only other link Terre Haute and Vigo County have with the Revolutionary period are the veterans of the Revolutionary War who became pioneers in this area and are buried here. Their graves should be located, marked with suitable government tombstones and their memory especially honored during the Bicentennial observance from 1976 to 1983.

Sometimes called the "Liberty Bell of the Nor-

Continued Ou Page 5, Col. 1.

Dorothy Clark

Ts JUL 6 1975

Continued From Page 4.

thwest Territory," the Vigo bell can be seen from a distance by sighting through the openings in the court house dome from all four directions. Other than workmen and court house employees, relatively few people have made the climb to see and touch the old bell. During World War II in 1945, the mechanism broke that controlled the striking of the bell. Because of the war emergency, parts could not be obtained to repair the hand-wound clock, so the mechanism was electrified when repairs were finally accomplished.

The climb was a terrifying experience to this writer — a never to be repeated feat. It has been said that the climb earns the climber at least a master's degree in local history. One takes the elevator to the fifth floor and begins the climb from there . . . first up a stairway and finally up a metal ladder broken only by stops to catch breath by looking out the "port hole" windows in the tower. A cable for the sheriff's radio communication runs up one side of the ladder and makes the climbing even

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more hazardous and possibly "hair-raising."

With ears popping, arms and legs trembling from the desperate clutching of the ladder rungs, chest heaving, and hair standing on end, one finally gazes on the historic bell, much larger than imagined when seen from ground level.

When asked how many court houses in Indiana possess a privately donated bell, David R. Hermansen, author of "Indiana County Court Houses of the 19th Century," said, "It would be safe to say that around the turn of the century algmost all if not all had a clock and bell system."

The trend is toward fewer court house clocks and bells in Indiana, because the need for a community clock has lessened with the advent of inexpensive and dependable clocks for the home, along with plentiful time announcements on radio and television. Have you seen a person lately without a wristwatch?

According to architectaure professor Hermansen, "Many of the late 19th century examples have been demolished and replaced by new buildings and they do not have a clock or bells." Court houses in Grant, Randolph and Greene counties have had their bell towers removed.

He considers the Vigo County court house, biult by Samuel Hannaford, Cincinnati architect, as an excellent examble of 19th century edclecticsm, a term indiating a mixture. "The architect used a series of elements from the late 16th century and early 17th century, French Renaissance periods, plus the 19th century French Second Empire Style."

Hermansen considers our court house to be "a handsome pile," yet suggests improving the interior's appearance and replacing the glasss block windows. This type of architecture is sometimes referred to as "Stone Quarry Style" because of the elaborate use of stone decorations, ornate columns, oversize keystones, etc.

During an impoverished old age, Col. Vigo was reported to have muttered more than once, "Everybody has forgotten me." This is not so today. Sullivan County has a Vigo township ansd a Vigo elementary school. Vincennes has a Vigo street. His grave in the center of Greenlawn Cemetery in Vincennes has been well marked with a large granite monument and small metal signs point the way along the footpath. Several items formerly belonging to Vigo have been collected together and are on display in the Vigo Room of Grouseland. The Vigo Bell chimes the hours from our court housed bell tower and reminds the poeple of his great patriotism.

Historically Speaking

Community Affairs File Ts MAR 28 1976

Ts MAR 28 1976

By DOROTHY J. CLARK

On March 26, 1898, work was begun on the Big Four Depot at the northwest corner of 7th and Tippecanoe streets. The main entrance was planned on 7th Street, and a short corridor separated office rooms from the main waiting room — 70 feet long by 62 feet wide — a larger waiting room than the one at Union Station.

Col. E. E. South's office and the telegraph operator were located at the right of the entrance. On the left was the ladies waiting room, toilet and parcel room. West of the main waiting room was the baggage room. Express Company's room, gentlemen's room and toilet.

On the south side was a porte cochere where carriages could drive up and deliver passengers or pick them up. The south side was considered the handsomest side from an architectural point of view, but the west side had handsome grass plots and beds of flowers.

Architect Jacobs, of the Big Four at Cincinnati, was the designer of the structure. George W. Kittredge was the chief engineer.

The northeast corner of the building, over a large bay window, was erected a three-story tower, pierced with windows in the second story, while the third was open and the roof was supported by pairs of short columns. The central entrance had been changed from the square doorway to a circular arch. After a portion of the wall had been built over the doorway, it was found that the construction was not strong enough and at the suggestion of President M. E. Ingalls, of the Big Four, who passed through the city and inspected the work on the new depot, changes were made. The original design of the building was published in the newspaper, but the later changes were never published. This has always been a puzzel to recent architectural students.

The floor is Italian mosaic tile, and the roof was originally of tile. August Ohm, of Terre Haute, was awarded the contract for erecting the depot on his bid of $25,000. It was completed in 1899.

August Ohm also was awarded the contract for the fine hotel by Monninger and Dressler at the southwest corner of 7th and Tippecanoe streets. The cost of the building was set at $12,000 and the original architect's elevations show it to be a handsome building with its imposing front on Tippecanoe Street.

On the northeast corner of the building there was a tower somewhat over three stories high, surmounted by a fancy shaped roof and cut by windows, the casing of which were of ornamental design to go with the rest of the exterior. The building was planned by Boland and Son, of Indianapolis. The three stories were build of pressed brick and light stone, with stone used extensivoly on the front.

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The first floor of the hotel included a bar, a gentleman's cafe, and a kitchen. In the basement were two bowling alleys, described in the 1898 newspaper as "a great feature of the hotel for those athletic guests who are fond of scattering the pins."

The two top stories contained 20 well-lighted and ventilated rooms for the accommodation of guests. Each room was well heated and had two windows.

The whole building was lighted with electricity and heated by steam, furnished by a plant connected with the hotel.

The bar fixtures were quite elaborate and beautiful. Completion date was May 1, 1899.

Another new building under construction at that time at 7th and Tippecanoe was the fine new store of R. L. Conover. The two-story structure was being put up by August Ohm, from the plans drawn by James M. Sherman, architect, at a cost of $5,000.

Pressed brick was furnished by the Terre Haute Pressed Brick Co., and the stone by an Indianapolis firm.

The first floor was devoted to a bar room and five other rooms while upstairs there were eight living rooms. The bar fixtures were very elaborate and the floor was an expensive mosaic.

The Conover building was lighted with both gas and electricity, and heated by a large furnace. The mill work was done by Clift, Williams & Co. The building was furnished and ready to open by May 1, 1899.

Albert R. Monninger, of Monninger & Dressler, proprietors of the Great Northern Hotel, was born in 1860 and attended the old seminary in Terre Haute, completing his education with a commercial course. He traveled on the road for his father, who was engaged in the wine industry here, for some 13 years, and then was traveling representative of H.

over

Hulman & Co. for several years, covering Ohio, Indiana and Illinois.

Having gained considerable experience, pleasant and otherwise, of hotels during his extensive travels, he decided to go into the hotel business. The Great Northern Hotel became known far and wide for the excellence of its service and accommodations, and the reasonable prices asked of them. The hotel was operated on the European plan and was modern for its time. Accommodations for 200 guests were available, and the excellence of the food served in the dining room was famous.

In 1886, Mr. Monninger was married to Lena Dressler, and they had two children, Albert C., who died young, and Marie Frances, who later married George C. Foulkes Jr.

The old Great Northern Hotel and the Conover Building were torn down during Indiana State University campus expansion efforts, and only the old depot remains, an unkept, slowly dilapidating building sadly in need of basic repair with weeds and trash accumulating around the premises and grass growing in the cracks of the sidewalk surrounding the building. Surely some ideas will be forthcoming as to its future use and preservation. It would be a shame to lose yet another old landmark in the community

—Historically Speaking—

By Dorothy Clark

Building A Courthouse— The Old-Fashioned Way

Ind Co Greene
Ts JUN 5 1977
Community Affairs File

Times were hard and money was scarce when Greene county built its first courthouse at Bloomfield in 1824.

The plans and specifications of the new structure were as follows: "A hewed log-house, 26 by 20 feet; one story and a half high; with one chimney, and one window with twelve lights in it (8 by 10) in the lower story, with a good poplar plank floor; the upper story tongue and grooved; with one pair of stairs and one partition across the upper story, and a window in each end of the same. House covered with joint shingles, 20 inches long and 6 inches to the weather. All to be done in a good and workmanlike manner."

This was considered a fine house for that day.

The majority of the people then covered their houses with boards, had puncheon floors, and had no partitions in their houses, and very few had glass for their windows.

Built on the lot later occupied by Cravens Bros. Drug Store, this courthouse was put to use by county officers before it had been chinked and daubed.

John Hill was appointed to do this work of chinking with short blocks, and the daubing of one-third lime and two-thirds sand on the outside, and clay on the inside.

This proves that no necessary expense was spared in making the temple of justice comfortable.

Short block chinking was regarded as much better and nicer than long block chinking.

Court was held at Bloomfield in 1825.

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Anecdotes about early settlers make local history come alive, and Greene county had its share.

There was James Roach who would go to Bloomfield for a spree when he was very old.

He always had money and would treat the little boys to gingerbread, regarded as a luxury in those early days.

When under the influence of liquor, he was always quiet and talked only to himself.

His favorite phrase was "Who wants to make a fuss about nothing? Peace belongs to everybody."

Well-loved by all, he was never molested on his infrequent sprees.

—

Old settler Stephen H. Lockwood was remembered for "sowing wild oats" when he was young.

Shedding his coat and rushing into a crowd around a friend who was getting the worst of it during a fist fight, he is supposed to have said that if there was any fighting to be done, he was their man —that he was the man "that had swallowed the whale."

After that he was generally called "Jonah," a name that followed him the rest of his life.

—

Among the first brick chimneys built in Greene county was one laid by Joseph A. Wright who later became Governor of Indiana.

It was built for Thomas Warnick on the lot and about the place where William Sergent's house stood in 1875.

In Wright's political campaigns, he always took great pride in referring to his early life as a bricklayer.

In all his speeches at Bloomfield, he never failed to call special attention to his chimney.

A conversation between Gov. Wright and early settler Adam Stropes was most interesting.

Stropes was a man of great courage, a soldier in the War of 1812, and a lieutenant in the Mexican War.

For many years he followed teaming, and hauled many wagon loads to and from Louisville, Ky.

He had been acquainted with Gov. Wright while Wright was working at his trade in Bloomington.

At the time they met, Stropes was keeping a hotel in Bloomfield, and the Governor was canvassing the state as a candidate for reelection to a second term.

While Stropes was hitching up the Governor's horse, they very naturally were talking of former days.

The Governor said, "Well, Adam, you didn't think, when you used to see me laying brick at Bloomington, that I would ever be governor of the state, did you?"

"No, Joe," answered Mr. Stropes, in his eccentric style, "we can't always tell from the looks of a toad how far he will jump."

—

In 1829, many people were arriving in the Bloomfield settlement believing that White River would be a great commercial thoroughfare.

Railroads had not then been thought of in Indiana.

Van Bayou, afterwards called Bluff Port, was planned as a river landing about one mile southwest of Bloomfield, but never materialized.

—

Joseph Storm, early legislator from Greene County, was a large, muscular man noted for his great physical strength.

Attacked by two catamounts as he was passing through a grove just west of Bloomfield, Storm killed both of them with his bare fists.

This feat gained him many votes in later political campaigns.

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Postal Service (TH)

Terre Haute Post Office here before town platted

Ts FEB 1 0 1980

Historically Speaking

By Dorothy Clark

It's been difficult to piece together an accurate history of the Terre Haute Post Office. There was a post office here even before the town of Terre Haute was platted. Curtis Gilbert was commissioned post master of Fort Harrison, Sullivan County, Ind., from Dec.4, 1817 until discontinued Oct.26, 1818.

During the first quarter he took in $15.68; second quarter, $35, and third quarter, $30. On Oct.26 he received notice from the postmaster general to transfer the post office to "Terry Hut."

A bill rendered by the Western Sun at Vincennes, July 25, 1818, shows a charge of two cents each for advertising 38 undelivered letters. On Nov.21, 1818, W. W. Hunt, assistant postmaster at Terre Haute, gave a receipt to Mr. Gilbert for "letters with unpaid postage amounting to $6.96, paid letters to the amount of 18 cents and one free letter, letters not advertised postage due for $10.30, unpaid newspapers 38 cents, a roll of blank forms, a letter box and a key for opening the mail." This marked the beginning of the Terre Haute Post Office.

First Post Office

The first post office was in a two-story frame building on the northeast corner of Ohio and Water streets (site of present jail) built by Curtis Gilbert. The lot was purchased from the Terre Haute Land Company before the first sale, and fixed after the building was begun. So the post office was moved from Fort Harrison to the little village of Terre Haute in 1818.

John M. Coleman was appointed the first postmaster here. If reports can be credited, he set up the first free delivery system. To understand this, it must be remembered that a man's hat in those days was a most important part of his outfit. He used its tall crown as a place to carry his handkerchief, gloves and any other loose articles he might be carrying.

Coleman carried letters in his tall hat, and meeting a friend for whom he had a letter, he would doff his hat and deliver the letter, provided the friend had the required 25 cents postage. If not, the letter would return to the hat, and sometimes to the dead letter office. Money was so scarce in those days that people wrote only to communicate important news. Another drawback to correspondence was the fading of the poke berry ink, making some letters unreadable.

How long the post office remained in the Gilbert building is not certain. One source states that sometime prior to 1824 William Linton erected a frame building near the southeast corner of Third and Main which he occupied as a store and post office. However, another source does not mention this post office location or Linton as postmaster, but states Coleman held office until 1828.

Weekly Mail

In December, 1826, Terre Haute had advanced to a weekly mail, and arrivals and departures of the stage coaches were listed in the Western Register.

Early in February, 1828, Coleman resigned as postmaster and John F. Cruft was appointed. For about four weeks in December, 1828, and January, 1829, no mails were received from the east due to the bad weather and impassable roads.

On Feb. 18 1830, a notice in the Register stated that "Francis Cunningham has been appointed postmaster of Terre Haute instead of John F. Cruft." Editor Kinney gave his opinion of this Jacksonian act by saying, "Mr. Cruft was among the best officers of this department in this state and gave universal satisfaction. We know the people immediately interested in this office did not request his removal...Mr. Cruft is a respectable citizen and we hope the public will not suffer by the change."

"Uncle Frank" Cunningham, as he was popularly known, kept the tavern at the northwest corner of Second and Main, and was an ardent Democrat.

In 1834 stage coach lines connected Terre Haute with Cincinnati and Evansville, and at least one mail a week was expected. During 1835, Terre Haute needed more houses to hold the people swarming in to make their homes. Mail stages ran three times a week via Indianapolis to Cincinnati, three times a week to Louisville and Evansville, twice a week to Lafayette, and once a week to Springfield.

Pony Express

In 1836 money orders, registered letters, envelopes and postage stamps were unknown. Each letter cost the receiver 25 cents.

It was a new era when the Pony Express was put on the road as a swift mail carrier. The boy on his pony galloping through the old yellow covered bridge on the National Road and sounding his horn as he came into town was a welcome sight in 1840.

Joseph O. Jones was postmaster of Terre Haute both in pioneer and more modern times. He was appointed July

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Vigo County Public Library

29, 1839 before the office was raised to the presidential class. In February, 1841, when the office received a new classification, he was the first presidential appointment commissioned as postmaster for four years by President Van Buren. Dr. Graff, his predeccessor, had the office on the west side of First Street, a few doors north of Main Street. Mr. Jones soon moved the post office to a one-story brick building in the rear of the Rose building, northwest corner of Second and Ohio, and next to a two-story frame building on Second Street west of the old courthouse, then to the three-story brick Linton Block, corner of Third and Main.

Postage Rates

Rates of postage in 1840 were six cents on letters of ¼ ounce for 80 miles and under; 10 cents over 80 and under 150 miles; 18¾ over 150 and under 400 miles; 25 cents for all over 400 miles. All the duties of the post office were performed by the postmaster and one assistant in a 20-foot square room. The office receipts paid all expenses and netted the Department about $2,500 per year. Box rents were collected by the postmaster as part of his salary. It was the custom for the ladies to call for mail at the post office, and it was the favorite place to meet and exchange gossip with friends.

After his first term as postmaster, Jones was employed as a clerk in the sixth auditor's office in Washington, and as a special agent to collect balances from postmasters in southern Michigan, northern Illinois and southern Wisconsin. He had many interesting experiences traveling by stage coach with his pockets weighted down with gold and silver coins.

In 1824 the new rate of postage on single letters sent by mail any distance less than 30 miles was five cents; over 30 miles and less than 100, 10 cents; over 100 miles, less than 220, 15 cents; over 220 and less than 400, 20 cents, over 400 miles, 25 cents.

The Terre Haute Post Office history will be concluded next Sunday.

brigades

Fire Dept (THFD)

THFD began with proverbial bucket

Historically Speaking

Ts OCT 1 2 1980

By Dorothy Clark

The history of the Terre Haute Fire Department really begins with the bucket brigades organized by the earliest citizens of the little village platted in 1816.

To put out fires 164 years ago, both men and women formed lines and passed, hand to hand, buckets of water drawn from wells, cisterns, and the river to the burning building. This primitive fire-fighting method was followed by a horse-drawn dray carrying hogsheads of water from the river.

To stimulate competition between citizens, the town council offered $3 for the first barrel of water delivered to the fire, $2 for ths second, and $1 for the third. These were prizes for speed, and after the first three hogsheads, a uniform price of 25 cents was offered until the fire was extinguished.

In 1839 the town council ordered a supply of poles with hooks, chains and ropes, and four ladders so constructed as to splice for reaching two or three stories. Terre Haute was going up in the world (and burning down at regular intervals).

The preceding year they had purchased the first piece of fire fightfighting equipment — a double decker hand pumper fire engine costing $529. Named the "Deluge," the rear water box was inscribed, "Fear Not, We Come!"

The first fire wardens appointed for five-year terms were: John Crawford, first ward; Zenas Smith, second ward; Thomas Houghton, third ward; John S. Burget, fourth ward, and Thomas C. Clayton, fifth ward.

No Public Cisterns

At this time there were no public cisterns and few private ones. People used well water, and would hire draymen to haul water from the river for washing purposes. When a fire alarm came every drayman in town started in a wild dash to the fire, but first went to the river where they quickly filled the hogsheads. It was all a wild and exciting scramble of odd-looking men and old drays pulled by spavined horses.

John B. Hager, local artist, drew a picture of one of these scenes at a long-ago fire. He depicted Drayman Foreman, with his dray and hogshead tipping over and spilling out, in the lead of the wild-eyed procession. He was closely followed by Sam Earle and "Old Lot," the black drayman, laying the whip on his mule and his hat sailing away unheeded. The old cut is more animated than modern-day, so-called "action" photographs.

More Water Needed

In 1840 more fire cisterns were ordered built, and a Hook and Ladder Company organized with T. A. Madison, foreman; John Crawford and A.L. Chamberlain, laddermen; James Hook, axman; John Warner, hookman; Zenas Smith, ropeman, etc.

Serving with the Fire Engine Company were Groverman, Blake, H. Fairbanks, Danaldson, McGregor, J.K. Graff, L.G. Warren, S.C. Crawford, James Farrington, Thomas Dowling, J.F.King, A.B. Fontaine, C. Gilbert, John Seely and others.

The fire department owned one engine, one bell, one hose cart, 150 feet of hose, two buckets, one glass

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lanthorn, one speaking trumpet, one coal stove and pipe, and two cisterns in the courthouse yard. The public hearse and harness for one horse were also kept at the fire station.

By 1852 the old dray and bucket system of fire fighting had been recognized as inadequate. The citizens petitioned the town council for some first class equipment. So, in 1856, another Hand Pumper Engine called the "Mohawk" was added. This proved too heavy to be pulled through the early sandy streets.

In 1866 the incorporated city of Terre Haute bought its first steam fire engine called "Albert Lange No.1," named for the mayor at that time. This engine was drawn by a pair of fine horses and got up steam in six minutes, ready to pump awater 165 feet through two hose lines. The next year the second steam engine was purchased.

Old Engine Sold

The old hand engine No.1 was sold to Crawfordsville in 1869 for $600. The same year an alarm was purchased for $300 and placed on the furniture factory. In 1870 the first steps were taken to establish a water works system. The Mohawk hand engine was sold to Effingham for $1,380.

In 1872 the American fire alarm system was adopted, and six boxes, one repeater, and three large and one small gongs purchased and placed in operation at a cost of $2,500.

In 1885, the non-partisan Metropolitan system was adopted, taking ths department out of politics. Before this system was adopted, the firemen were discharged every time the city had an election, especially if the firemen belonged to the wrong party.

Other changes were new uniforms and regular work hours. Some of the early cisterns were still being used in the suburbs where the water mains did not reach as late as 1890.

The history of Terre Haute Fire Department will be continued next Sunday...

Historically Speaking

By Dorothy Clark

Community Affairs File

Continuing the story of THFD from 1885

Fire Dept F.H.

OCT 1 9 1980

The history of the Terre Haute Fire Department, from 1816 to 1885, was the subject of last week's column. Today's column takes up the account in 1885, the year marking the disappearance of the last vestige of the old volunteer fire department, a great institution in its day.

In the old days there was a standing premium of $5 to the company that turned the first stream of water on a fire. This little premium became a bone of contention. To hurry and hustle and run for it was the waking and sleeping dream of the fire laddies. Then to cut the hose of a rival company and turn the whole wild frolic into a fight and break a dozen heads was the fun of a lifetime.

It was "anything" before being beaten in getting the first stream on the fire. No men could be more active and vigilant than the old volunteer companies, and their effectiveness could not have been excelled except for the disposition to play tricks on each other and stop fighting the fire to fight one another.

Some of the most disastrous earlier fires in the city were the distillery of the Terre Haute Distilling Company in 1886 with a loss of $60,000; the Terre Haute Car Works in 1887, $240,012; and the Normal School (now Indiana State University) in 1888, $100,000 loss.

In 1917 the fire department became completely motorized, and the horse was left behind. All that remained of the old volunteer firemen's association in the city was the aging brick No.1 Northern Liberty Fire House built in 1857 at Third Street and Lafayette Avenue; the bell from the old station hangs in Sacred Heart School on North Thirteenth Street.

The No.2 bell hangs in the Westminster Church, Twenty-second and Wabash, and the No.3 bell at the Methodist Church, Fourth Avenue and North Center Street. The Vigo No.2 engine was placed in the Smithsonian Institute, Washington, D.C. by Charles T. Nehf, historian for the fire department.

When Pres. Lincoln issued a call for volunteer soldiers in 1861, over 90 percent of the volunteer fire fighters enlisted. This patriotic act disrupted the fire system, but the spirit of the organization was kept up by the 150 members having water throwing contests and giving prizes to the winners.

A fine solid silver fire chief's speaking trumpet was presented to the winner of the No. 2 company, and when this company was mustered out of service, the trumpet was given to the paid firemen. It has been in the chief's office at Fire Headquarters since that time. Inscribed on the beautifully engraved silver trumpet (now over 100 years old) are the names of former fire chiefs.

Taking that list, the list included in the 1975 publication of the history of the local fire department, and information from the early city directories, it was found there were 44 names (although some of the men served more than one time). If there's a mistake or ommission, please contact the writer.

S. E. Gibbs, May 16, 1854, was the first chief after the city was incorporated. He was followed by T. E. Buntin, 1856-57; R. G. (or L.) Cox, 1857-59; John C. Yates, 1859-61; John D. Bell, 1861-63; John A. Bryan, 1863-65; R. F. Dengler, 1865-66; John A. Bryan, 1866; John D. Bell, 1866-71; W.L. Wright, 1871, and William Van Brunt, 1871-74.

Then came, Stephen Mahoney, 1874-76; Henry Ramme, 1876-77; Joseph H. Schell, 1877-78; V. G. Dickout, 1878-80; W. K. Burnett, 1880-82; Lawrence C. Kretz, 1882-83; John Kennedy, 1883-84; L. C. Kretz, 1884-85; Joseph H. Schell, 1885-87; Martin Hunter, 1887-88, and John Kennedy, 1888-1890.

Also, J. D. Jones, 1890-92; John Kennedy, 1892-94; J. D. Jones, 1894-96; Theodore Goodman, 1896-98; James J. Daugherty, 1899-1904; Elias T. Leonard, 1904-06; John Kennedy, 1906-09; John T. Tully, 1909-1914; Harry Bledsoe, 1914-1918; C. E. Evinger, 1918-21, and John Roll, 1921-22.

And, Frank Miller, 1922-30; John Falvey, 1930-35; Albert W. "Red" Rowe, 1935-39; Ralph Dinkel, 1939-43; A. W. Rowe, 1943-46; Aubrey Hodgers, 1946-48; Zenis Nicoson, 1948-58; Norman Fesler, 1958-65; Don Harris, 1965-68; Robert Terrell, 1968-71, and LeRoy Shipley, 1971 to present time.

The Terre Haute Fire Department has had a most interesting history, from the bucket brigade of 1816 to the modern facilities of 1980... 164 years of service to the community.

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Rose, Chauncey
Hospitals (TH)
Clark, Dorothy J.

Historically speaking

June

Rose helped build Providence Hospital

Community Affairs File
TS 6-27-82

By DOROTHY J. CLARK

Following the Civil War, Chauncey Rose, Terre Haute's leading philanthropist, was approached by two representatives of the Sisters of Providence to help establish a Catholic hospital in Terre Haute. He gave them $1,100, and offered to donate a five-acre lot and a substantial sum if the hospital were located here.

Later gifts from Mr. Rose totaled $18,000, and he urged the work to begin soon, promising to turn over the site at the northeast corner of 13th Street adnd Fifth Avenue as soon as the crop of clover was cut.

William B. Tuell, Rose's attorney, recommended J. A. Vrydagh as the architect to draw up plans for the hospital from Mother Anastasie's sketch. After changes were made, the cost was brought down to $20,000 and contracts for lumber and bricks were arranged.

Architect Vrydagh already had the handsome buildings of the first St. Joseph church, the Terre Haute Opera House and the Indiana State Normal School of 1867 to his credit.

On May 11, 1869, the local newspapers announced the building of the new hospital as a certainty. The deed for the site was received June 8, and digging of the foundation began July 12. By Sept. 20 the cornerstone was laid by Bishop de Saint-Palais with the customary coins, medals and paper items placed in the cornerstone box.

The seasonal delays and shortage of money slowed completion, but Mr. Rose continued to donate until his contributions totaled $31,500. His interest and support were strong factors in the project. Since his arrival in Terre Haute in 1818, the welfare of the city was very dear to his heart.

Non-sectarian in his beliefs, Rose supported all churches and gave freely to humanitarian institutions regardless of creed from his vast fortune built from hard work, vision and careful investments in real estate.

After some two years in the building, Providence Hospital opened in 1872. Up to the time of dedication, June 30, only $4,290 had been contributed by the people of Terre Haute. Money raised by fairs and private donations from friends amounted to $4,586. With Chauncey Rose's gift of the land and $30,000, the total was about $40,000.

In failing health and advancing years, Rose tried to keep costs down, but the entire cost of the structure, without furniture, was about $80,000. T. B. Snapp was the head contractor, Wagner & MacFarlane were in charge of stone work, the brick work was done by M. L. Wood & Company, the iron work by McElfrish & Company of the Phoenix Foundry, the plumbing by R. Buckell, and the roofing by Moore & Hagerty.

The late Dr. Charles N. Combs described the building as "red brick, three stories high with a basement, designed to accommodate 75 patients. The plumbing and kitchen facilities were much in advance of the time, and the hospital was a credit to the city."

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Built in the form of a reversed T, the building was 85 feet north and south through the center, with a frontage of 152 feet at the widest part and 52 feet at the narrowest. Only the central part of the projected building was completed. Veranda and porches were to be added for the benefit of convalescent patients.

The plan to add adjoining two-story pavilions connected by cloisters to the main building had to be postponed until further financing was available. The site of 275 x 600 feet was used to the greatest possible advantage. Earth removed from the excavation was spread on the highest part of the knoll and gently sloped to the west for an easy carriage drive. On the east, a terrace protected the vegetable garden and fruit trees yet to be planted. Shade trees and flower beds were planned to beautify the front lawn.

Underground cellars in the north wing held coal bunkers and provisions. Above these were the bakery, boiler room, kitchen and scullery. On the first floor were the steward's and attendant's rooms, washroom, laundry, and hot air dryer with a waterproof floor. Two elevators had been installed. Much space and planning was given over to a prayer chapel, and the chapel mortuary was to be erected later.

Every room was provided with a fireplace, the grate acting either as a heat radiator or ventilator. Low pressure steam heat was planned to heat the building, work the elevators and raise hot water to necessary stations.

Described as plain but attractive, the building's brick walls at the front were protected by a hard limestone-dressed base course. A large triple window of stained glass in the center of the second floor illuminated the oratory. Hipped to the wings, the center part of the slate roof presented gables to the north and south. Boldly accused chimney stacks and a central cupola relieved the roof line. A gilded copper ball and cross was displayed 100 feet in the air atop the cupola.

Heralded as the most impressive Catholic celebration ever held in the city, dedication day was attended by wagon loads of Sisters from St. Mary-of-the-Woods; excursion train loads came from St. Louis, Indianapolis and Vincennes.

The procession formed on Ohio near Fifth Street. Local societies included the Prairie City Guards, 120 members of the Hibernian Benevolent Society, 40 men of the German Catholic Benevolent Society, 40 members of the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick, 46 members of the Young Mens's Amulet, and 70 men of the St. Joseph Sodality.

A speaker's stand was erected at the northeast corner of the new hospital. Dr. Ezra Read introduced the guest speaker, Dr. Theophilus Parvin of Indianapolis, a professor in the Louisville Medical College.

Note: The history of Providence Hospital will be continued next week.

Vigo County Public Library

Clark, Dorothy J.
Hospitals (P.H)
Valley T s JUL 4 1982

Community Affairs File

Community Affairs File

Historically speaking

Bleak future for Providence Hospital

By DOROTHY J. CLARK

Six Sisters of Providence were named to be in charge of the new Providence Hospital. Dr. J. I. Baty returned from California to become chief of staff on Nov. 18.

By September, there were only 13 patients. Contagious diseases were confined to a small house not connected with the main building. October and November, 1873, showed even fewer patients, sometimes seven, sometimes nine. The hospital offered to take charge of the poor from the town's inadequate and deplorable asylum for only $4 per week, but city officials objected.

Following Dr. Baty's resignation and return to Europe, 34-year-old Dr. Leon J. Willien became chief of staff. Born in Alsace-Lorraine in 1840, he was the son of an eminent physician, a professor in the University of Strasbourg. His widowed mother, always referred to as Madame Willien, came to the United States and settled in the Picquet Colony, Sainte Marie, Ill. Young Willien was educated at the St. Louis Medical School, and later at the University of Strasbourg, graduating from the school of surgery there in 1864.

Willien was the first doctor in Vigo County to have a paper published in a medical journal. He headed the staff of St. Anthony's Hospital when it was founded in Terre Haute in 1881. For 35 years he was the attending physician of the Sisters of Providence.

Providence Hospital was not the success Mother Anastasie and her Council hoped for, and it became increasingly evident that it was not contributing to the city's development in the northeast part of town. In fact, as early as 1869, the city suburbs were known as Montrose, Elmwood, Greenwood and Providence.

Bigotry in Terre Haute was more active than the Catholic Sisters realized. Rumors in the French press and taken up by the American newspapers revived an anti-Catholic spirit. An ex-priest, Father Allessandro Gavazzi, came to Terre Haute on his tour of the country. Representing himself as an Italian reformer, he spoke at the Congregational Church and was well received.

Colonel Richard W. Thompson, a man of influence in the political field who was to serve as Secretary of the Navy under President Rutherford B. Hayes, spent several years investigating Catholic matters. His first book, "The Papacy and Civil Power," published by Harper, was a systematic attack on the papacy. It was followed in 1877 by a second book, "In the Footsteps of the Jesuits." Thompson's prestige attracted attention to these books, and his presence in Terre Haute did not promote goodwill toward Catholic institutions.

The local newspapers attacked the new hospital dedication when it was held on Sunday at a time when Protestant churches were holding their services. They stated that since the hospital was built with Protestant money, it should not try to exclude Protestants from its ceremony.

The appointment of Dr. Baty, splendid physician that he was, was deeply resented by the people of Terre Haute and particularly by the local physicians. They believed a capable chief of staff should have been chosen from the 21 able doctors available.

Townspeople who could afford home care when they were ill preferred their own surroundings rather than the new hospital so far from their home and friends. No preliminary canvass had been made to determine whether people here really wanted or needed a hospital.

As late as June, 1873, Mother Anastasie considered building a small school on the hospital grounds, but the project was abandoned.

Sisters from the hospital did teach the Three R's to the children in the area in a little cottage used during the building work.

The smallpox epidemic which occurred in Terre Haute shortly after the hospital dedication pointed up the bigotry of the citizens. The services of the Sisters to the city pesthouse were offered and gratefully accepted by Mayor Cookerly until he received an anonymous letter warning that if the Sisters crossed the threshold of the pesthouse the building would be burned down. Cookerly suggested the theory that the wage scale of the attendants employed in hospital work would be upset if the Sisters donated free services.

The death blow to Providence Hospital was given by the Commissioner of the County Asylum when they turned down the offer to care for those inmates needing

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special care. On Nov. 17, 1874, after only two years of operation, the hospital was officially closed. A few Sisters lived in the west wing to safeguard the property and to continue the small school, but the disposition of the property was still undecided.

Because of the initial gift from Chauncey Rose of the land and money, the Sisters felt his thinking on the disposition of the property was necessary. Rose regretted the fate of the hospital but made it clear they were entirely free to dispose of it. It was decided to sell the building to the diocese as an orphanage. The land and building worth $125,000 were sold for $15,000.

On Jan. 10, 1876, the deed of sale was signed, and the transfer of orphans took place the following day. They were transported by train from Vincennes, 176 orphans ranging in age from two to 14 years. Omnibuses were waiting for the babies and crippled children. A special ward was a 50-year-old hunchback so deformed she was only three feet tall. The older and stronger orphans marched the distance of about three miles to the new orphanage.

About 50 persons, many of them non-Catholic, welcomed the children with supper. Three cartloads of provisions had been donated including turkeys, chickens, hams and sausages. Candy and an orange were provided for each orphan.

At last the children were located in the dormitories. They were delighted with the spacious playgrounds, the clean new rooms and the beautiful gardens and hothouses on the grounds.

The converted hospital was now known as St. Ann's Orphanage although the stone lintel over the front door still bore the name "Providence Hospital," an inscription never altered. In 1908 the orphanage was severely damaged by fire and rebuilt by the diocese as neatly as an older building can be. Its former elegance was sacrificed to economy.

The number of Catholics in the neighborhood was increasing, and in August, 1876, a small frame church, 66 by 35 feet, was completed, and a small two-room school was built near it. No convent was needed as the nuns continued to live at the orphanage.

St. Ann's Orphanage continued from 1876 to 1919 when the remaining charges were transferred to Indianapolis. The half-century old building was sold and later demolished.

Community Affairs File

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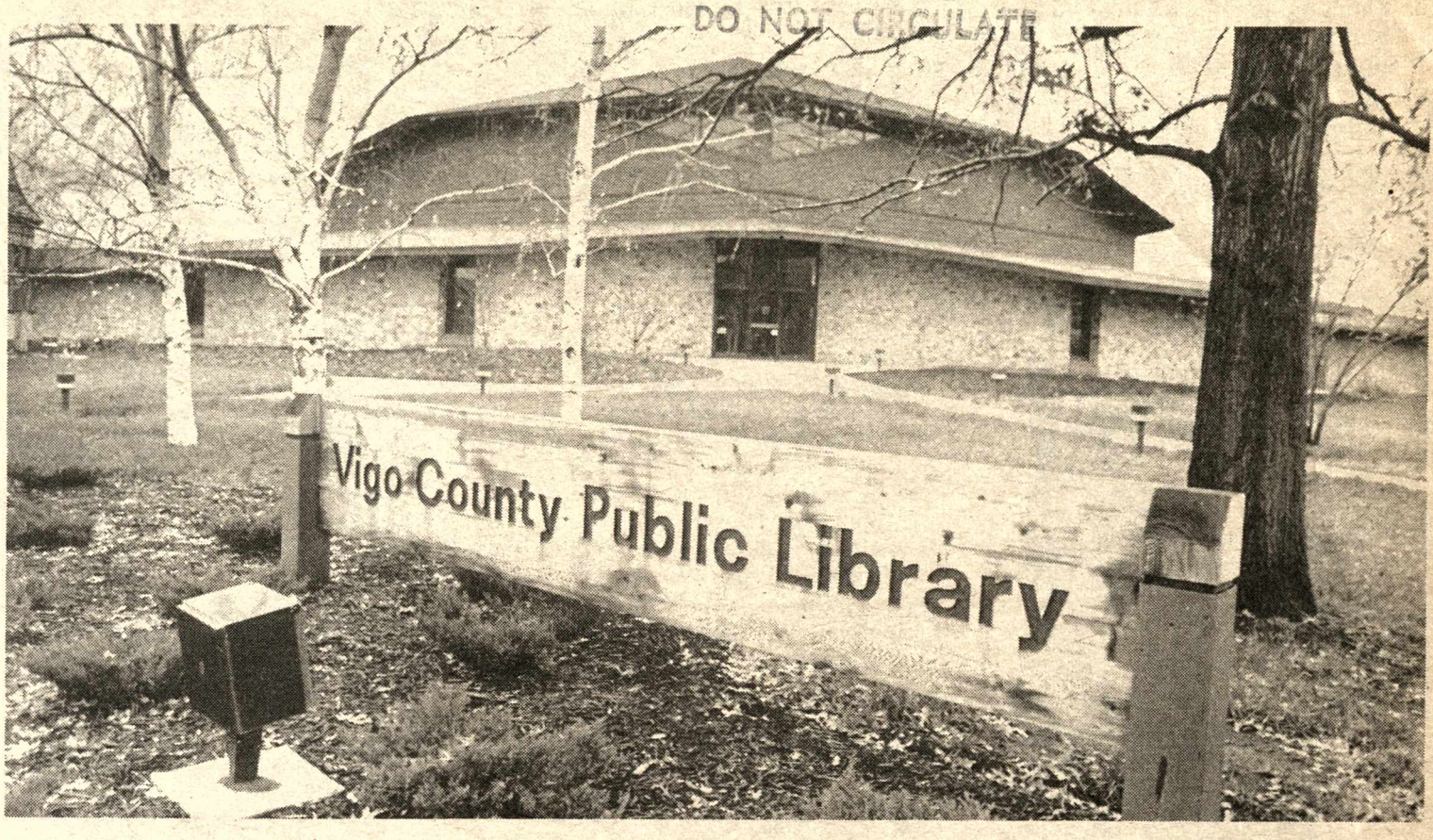
Historically speaking



Clark, D ~~Libraries (T. H.)~~ Community Affairs File

Books and libraries in the community

T S NOV 2 8 1982

By DOROTHY J. CLARK

The value of the library in the community has been appreciated in Terre Haute from its earliest years to the present day. The ratio of at least one book per person has been true from pioneer days to 1982.

In 1823, only seven years after the town was platted in 1816, Joseph Jenckes was given $200 from library funds to purchase books on a trip back east to visit his family in Providence, R.I. His letters contain lists of these first books for the local library.

An election was held Sept. 6, 1824 after the first library was established in Terre Haute. Elected were William C. Linton, president; James Farrington, Curtis Gilbert, William Clark, Nathaniel Huntington, D. H. Johnson, D. F. Durkee and George Hussey, trustees, and John Britton, librarian. The library was open to the public on Tuesdays and Saturdays.

The public or county library had 700 to 800 volumes in circulation in 1832, almost one each for the slowly growing town. Borrowers were courteously requested to return overdue books, according to a small notice in the Wabash Courier.

Some years later, the Mechanics Institute Libraries were established in all Indiana counties. These libraries were made possible by the gift of William McClure, the Scotch reformer and philanthropist of New Harmony, the first founder of libraries in this country. A few of these McClure library books should still be in the library today, along with a few from the Concordia Society of the Terre Haute Female College whose collection was turned over to the Terre Haute Library Association when it was organized.

As many as four bookplates prove the former ownership of the oldest books. Represented are the Young Men's Library Association of Terre Haute, and the Ulyssean Library of 1859.

The Harrison Township Library was located in the office of Zenas Smith in 1863 for the free use of citizens. The Workingman's Institute Library Association had been established June 26, 1856 in the office of Scott & Booth, local attorneys.

The city's earliest book club was formed by a Miss Nelson, sister of George Nelson, a railroad conductor who lived on the northwest corner of Ninth and Ohio streets. His wife, the former Mary Harrison, daughter of Britton Harrison, died in 1873, and Miss Nelson came to care for the children. She was remembered as a very intellectual woman who opened a small circulating library in her new home.

On March 5, 1879, a meeting was called to organize a library association. Public spirited women had previously canvassed the town to secure subscriptions for its support. This meeting adjourned without enough subscribers present to conduct business.

Later, however, the Terre Haute Library Association was successfully organized with N. G. Buff, president, and Dr. J. P. Worrell, secretary.

In June, 1881, the school trustees, acting under the law of 1880, levied a tax of two cents on each $100 of taxable property for the library purposes. Nothing further was done until May 20, 1882, when the trustees purchased the property of the Terre Haute Library Association *by assuming an indebtedness of $70 and paying a nominal fee of $1. The 1,140 volumes thus acquired were the beginning of the Terre Haute Public Library.*

Lucy C. Wonner was elected librarian, and rooms at 624½ Wabash Ave. were retained. Later in the year the library was moved to 709½ Wabash Ave.

In October, 1894, Miss Wonner, assistant librarian, resigned, and Sallie C. Hughes was elected to the vacancy in November. In May, 1905, Mrs. Wonner resigned, and Leatha M. Paddock, who had been supplying for some time, was elected as librarian. Mrs. Hughes succeeded Miss Paddock as the first librarian in the new building.

The old Universalist church at 119 N. Eighth St., was purchased, a stack room built, and the library moved in the new quarters in October, 1896. It had completely outgrown the old location. With increased patronage and the addition of many more books, this building became crowded also, and the future of the library was again a leading question.

In 1903, Crawford Fairbanks expressed his desire to give the city a library in memory of his mother. It would be called the Emeline Fairbanks Memorial Library, and the city would purchase the lot. A site at Seventh and Eagle streets was chosen, and in April, 1906, the handsome building was completed. According to the newspapers, it was "magnificently fitted and furnished, the gift of a devoted son to the memory of a worthy mother, and the pride of the city."

On July 30, the old library was closed and removal of books was begun. On Saturday evening, August 11, the new building was open for public inspection, with the staff and library trustees acting as a reception committee. The next day regular Sunday open hours were observed, and on Monday, regular routine began.

Circulation figures of the library increased steadily through the years. Census figures for Vigo County in 1889 show there were 16,516 books in private libraries and 14,411 in public libraries. In 1905 circulation was 51,098 volumes, increasing to 86,746 in 1906. By 1908 the figures show 92,105 volumes.

When the library opened in 1906, the total book stock was 22,845. In 1956, 50 years later, total book stock was 119,129. Total circulation for 1955 was 233,429. The public attended a gala open house to celebrate the 50th year.

Again library facilities became inadequate, and a brand new Vigo County Library building was constructed on the former Wiley High School site on South Seventh Street between Walnut and Poplar streets and opened in 1979. This most modern and progressive library should serve Terre Haute and the surrounding area for many years to come.

Vigo County Public Library

BETWEEN THE LINES

THE STORY BEHIND THE STORIES YOU READ ABOUT CELEBRITIES

By Josie

Peter Frampton

Q. Whatever happened to superstar Peter Frampton? First, I heard he had been in a near fatal car accident, then that he'd turned to religon. True? Michelle Metivier, Leominster, Mass.

A. The first part is true: The car accident, indeed, was a nasty one sending Frampton into a tree and then into the hospital for a couple of months. The story circulating among his intimates afterward about the cause of the crash was pretty juicy too. He and his girlfriend were vacationing in the Caribbean at the time. Frampton reportedly happened onto some pictures of her with another man. He took to the road and went into the tree.

After healing, Frampton did go back to work, but as you perhaps unintentionally pointed out, he hasn't been able to equal the success of his earlier albums. His latest, "The Art of Control," has come under fire as an instant and insincere excursion into New Wave that doesn't quite make sense.

Still, he just finished a semi-national tour, so maybe his diehard fans don't really care what image he's trying to pick up right now. As for religion, "not that we've heard," according to one of his friends.

Q. I am hopelessly in love with Ralph Macchio and was wondering if you could tell me something about him and where I can write to him. Marcia Stelle, Anchorage, Ak.

A. Ralph, who just turned 21, grew up in New York, in the suburbs of Long Island and originally planned to become a dancer. When he was 16 and in a dance class, he was discovered by a Hollywood talent scout, a friend of his teacher's who'd pointed Macchio out. The scout got him commercial work and shortly afterward, he went up for his first film audition for the film "Up the Academy" and received one of the four lead roles, that of Chooch.

After that, ABC sent a scout to New York to cast a role for the series "Eight is Enough." 2000 boys auditioned and Ralph landed the part of Jeremy in the series's last season. "After that he started to take acting real seriously," according to his agent. "He spent a lot of time studying. He's very intense."

The first opportunity upon his re-emergence was to read for famed director Francis Coppola for a film he was putting together, based on Susie Hinton's novel "The Outsiders." Macchio read for the part of Johnny several times and got it. You should see the results sometime this winter.

Meanwhile, you can write to him c-o "The Outsiders," Warner Brothers Pictures, Burbank Studios, 4000 Warner Blvd. Burbank, California 91522.

Ralph Macchio

Jaclyn Smith

Q. I would like to know where Jaclyn Smith is. Is she going to keep her acting career or is she settling down? N.N., Davis, California

A. When we checked, Jaclyn Smith had just arrived home in Los Angeles after several weeks in New York and Paris filming "Rage of Angels," a four hour mini-series based on Sidney Sheldon's steamy bestseller. It's due on NBC in February.

"Jackie has no intention of giving up her career," explains a close associate. "She really does enjoy working and she can't imagine why she should stop. After all, it doesn't mean being away from her son; she took him and his nanny to New York and Paris and was perfectly able to spend time with him off the set. As long as it was shot here, she would even consider another series."

No new series is on the horizon at the moment, but there are a couple of projects in the talking stage, among them a remake of the tear-jerker "Tea and Sympathy."

BEATING AN IDEA TO DEATH DEPARTMENT... Mel Brooks, who, some industry observers insist, doesn't make movies as funny as he is himself, has just announced plans to definitely make a comic version of "Robin Hood" in England next spring. Sounds funny, right? The only problem is that he already tried it, as a short-lived TV series called "When Things were Rotten" a few seasons back. It was, of course, rotten.

And that isn't all. He's also set to co-star with wife Anne Bancroft in a film called "To Be or Not to Be," to be directed by the man who staged the "Spanish Inquisition" sequence in his last film "History of the World, Part I" — a sequence that was savaged by critics and audiences alike for its tastelessness. Yet, Brooks's spin-off jive-talking song, "It's Good to be a King," was a hit in England and his radio interviews to promote that film were hilarious.

Mel Brooks

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Vigo County Public Library
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airports (civil)

Clark, Dorothy

Ts JUN 23 1985

Off to flying start

How Cox Field was born — and died

Historically speaking

Clark is Vigo County's official historian and formerly worked for The Terre Haute Tribune.

By Dorothy Clark
Special to The Tribune-Star

Fort Harrison Post No. 40, American Legion, under George J. Beck, commander, adopted as its major activity in the fall of 1927 the establishment of a Terre Haute municipal airport.

Appointed to the committee to work out details were Paul S. Cox, chairman; Frank Fulke, George J. Carroll and Robert L. Tilley, all active flyers during World War I; and Morton F. Hayman and Harry E. Fitch.

Because of the expense of several hundreds of thousands of dollars involved, it was impossible to get the support of city officials. Early in 1928, a letter to the Terre Haute Chamber of Commerce from the National Air Race Association stated that this city would be selected as a night stop on the first transcontinental race from New York to Los Angeles.

The letter suggested that a favorable field could be developed on a site used as an emergency landing field by army and civilian flyers known as Dresser Field. This 168-acre tract was located nearly three miles south of the city's business district on what was then U.S. Highway 41, now South Seventh Street.

The letter was turned over to Cox for action, and the formal opening was observed May 30, 1928. The airport was used for student instruction and commercial flying. On Sept. 8 the field was designated as a night control point on the first transcontinental air derby with 49 planes entered. More than 20,000 spectators were attracted to the field that night and the following morning.

Terre Haute Airways Inc. was organized in March 1929 as a commercial venture to develop Dresser Field. Chosen as directors were Cox, president; Walter G. Palmer, vice president; Hayman, secretary-treasurer; Shannon D. Buntin; Charles E. Piety; W. C. Ely and Gordon C. Morris.

Local pioneer civilian flyer Harry T. Musick was hired as field manager. Terre Haute Airways Inc. successfully operated the airport and made Terre Haute an air-minded community.

Early in 1930, Mayor Ora Davis authorized the appointment of a Board of Aviation Commissioners for the city and took over Dresser Field as Terre Haute's Municipal Airport. Serving on the first board were Dr. F. H. Jett, Robert F. Prox, Harry E. Fitch and Mort Hayman. John Haxton was selected as field manager.

After becoming a municipal airport, Terre Haute was designated as a control point on air mail routes from Chicago to Atlanta operated by American Airways Inc., with mail, express and passenger service. Transcontinental and Western Air Inc., the Lindbergh Route from New York to Los Angeles, also designated Terre Haute as a flag stop on this line.

In June 1933 the Board of Aviation Commissioners, composed of Jett, Prox, Carl Stahl and Raymond Thomas, authorized the changing of the name of the airport to "Paul Cox Field" in memory of Terre Haute's "War Ace" who had been killed the previous year.

During World War I, Paul Cox was a fighter pilot of the American Air Service in France. He was a first lieutenant in the 93rd Squadron of the Third Pursuit Group. Another local man, master sergeant electrician Ralph Goodrich, also served in this squadron.

The name was officially changed from Dresser Field to Paul Cox Field at dedication ceremonies June 21, 1933, on the occasionof the Indiana All-State Air Tour visit at the field for an overnight stop.

Welcome was extended to more than 40 planes and pilots, including those with the tour, the National Guard and a squadron of nine observation planes ordered here from Scott Field by the federal government.

Local residents were treated to the sight of all types of aircraft, including an amphibian flown by Clyde Shockley, and an auto-giro, later known as a helicopter or "whirly-bird."

One local plane from Dresser Field was on the tour, a Curtis-Wright pusher type owned by Harry Brentlinger Jr. Flown by Raymond Lloyd, the plane was chartered by B. F. Johnson and was known as the "Sane Crystal Special."

Arrangements had been made by the Terre Haute Aero Club and R. H. Murray, traffic manager for American Airways Inc., for a special cachet on airmail letters sent from Terre Haute that day. Bearing the inscription "Paul Cox Field, official airport dedication, Terre Haute, Ind., Aero Club of Terre Haute," the cachets have become highly prized souvenirs.

Following the arrival of the planes, all the pilots, Aero Club members and city officials formed a line near the hangar. A National Guard unit fired three volleys and taps were sounded. Brief remarks were made by Charles Piety and Mort Hayman. Margaret Cox, widow of the late pilot for whom the airport was named, unveiled the bunting from the east end of the hangar revealing the name "Paul Cox Field."

Immediately following the ceremony, the U.S. Army and National Guard planes took off to engage in sham battle maneuvers with members of the local National Guard company on the ground. The "Lufberry Circle," a newly developed formation of aerial attack, was demonstrated, thrilling the crowd.

The planes left the next morning for Lafayette, Ind.

Predictions for the future of the airport were glowing in 1933. The bond issue of $125,000 of 1929 was completely paid off. About five and one-half acres had been deeded to the Army Reserve Training Center. It is still there.

Time marches on, however, and the airport is gone. In its place is the Terre Haute South Vigo High School, the Allen Memorial Planetarium and a lot of bare ground. Air traffic is handled at Hulman Field east of the city.

Vigo County Historical Society

View from the top: This aerial photograph of Paul Cox Field was taken Aug. 15, 1943, 15 years after the field opened. On June 21, 1933, it was dedicated in memory of Paul Cox, a fighter pilot from Terre Haute who served with the American Air Service in France during World War I.

Memorial Hall oldest building in Terre Haute

Tr AUG 03 1986

Historically speaking

Clark retired as The Tribune-Star women's editor in 1980. She has written a local history column for 30 years. She is Vigo County Historian.

By Dorothy J. Clark
Special to The Tribune-Star

Before the turn of the century, members of the two local groups of the Grand Army of the Republic were trying to establish a club room for the aged Civil War veterans. They needed a building where the veterans could visit with each other and where patriotic organizations could hold their meetings.

While preparations were underway for the GAR State Encampment to be held in Terre Haute in 1910, Marx Myers, downtown businessman, was appointed head of the amusement committee. Myers, along with the finance committee, raised enough money to defray the expense of the encampment and have a balance left over of about $2,200.

The Vigo County Monumental Association contributed $2,500 left over from the expenses of erecting the Civil War monument on the courthouse lawn. With this money as a nucleus, the balance of the purchase price of Memorial Hall was obtained through donations.

On June 15, 1910, a meeting was held to form a Memorial Hall Association. George W. Krietenstein made the original motion. The association was composed of all members of the GAR Encampment Committee with 12 directors: three citizens; three members of the Vigo County Monumental Association; one member of GAR Morton Post No. 1; one member of GAR Baird Post No. 592; one member of Union Veterans Legion; one member of Sons of Veterans; one member to represent the City of Terre Haute; and Nicholas Filbeck Sr., chairman of the Executive Committee of Entertainment of the 31st Annual Encampment, Department of Indiana, GAR.

The chairman was responsible for naming individuals to serve on the board of directors. The motion seconded by W. S. McCoy was unanimously adopted. Filbeck appointed T. C. Williams of Morton Post; T. J. Keylon, Baird Post; Jesse Robertson, Union Veterans Legion; Krietenstein, Sons of Veterans; David Denny, Lawrence Burget and S. C. Crawford, Monumental Association; Terre Haute Mayor Louis Gerhardt; and Myers, Homer L. Stees and James Lyons, citizens.

A year later, the board was increased to 13 members. Spencer F. Ball was unanimously elected. The following year, 1912, the board was increased to 14 to allow the Spanish-American War veterans to be represented. Capt. A. W. Dudley was unanimously elected.

What is now known as Memorial Hall was a rundown old building called "The Old Curiosity Shop" in 1911. Once the most handsome, best built and designed building in Terre Haute, it had weathered the storms and snows since 1834, the year construction began, and was still in comparatively substantial condition.

Used as a bank for more than half a century, it was deserted as a business house because the city's growth was toward the east. Standing empty it became damaged by vandals and was used as a flophouse by passing tramps.

Preston Hussey, president of Terre Haute First National Bank, was interviewed about the historic old bank building. He told how the Terre Haute Branch of the State Bank of Indiana was roundly censured in 1834 for locating on the outskirts of the city. Most of Terre Haute at that time laid between Second Street and the Wabash River.

"The new building," he said, "located almost half way between Second and Third on Ohio, was almost in the woods. There were no buildings to the east of the bank, and no one had built to the east of Third Street." The population of Terre Haute at that time was estimated at 2,000.

"It took the greater part of two years to complete the building," Hussey said, "a two-story structure designed by Architect E. J. Peck who afterwards became president of the Vandalia Railroad. It was constructed of brick and the hardest kind of plaster."

Hussey told how "actual work of building began early in the spring of 1834, but it was late in the summer of 1836 before it was ready for occupancy. Beginning in 1848, the family of the cashier lived in the building directly behind the business rooms. Frank McKeen was born there in 1852. Cashiers and their families continued to live there until 1858."

He told how "the first National Bank ever organized in Terre Haute followed the State Bank of Indiana, making the building its headquarters beginning in 1864 and continuing until it had outgrown the building and the city had outgrown the location, and the bank was removed to its new building at Fifth and Wabash." This is where the Saratoga Restaurant is now located.

Architect Rodney Leonard's blueprint of the remodeling of what was to become Memorial Hall shows he agreed to "remove present vault and ward rooms and make one large room with library, all flooring, lath and plastering, masonry, etc., to be perfectly repaired. The present hardwood floor to be taken up and relaid in a first class manner."

Capt. A. C. Ford was put in charge of the committee's plans for acquiring and remodeling the old building. The front room on the ground floor was handsomely furnished as a club room. Directly behind the club room, under the dome, was the room set apart for a museum. Immediately in the rear of the museum was a large hall, the meeting place for all the military and patriotic organizations of the community.

In February 1912, the Temple Art Glass Co. of Indianapolis made art glass portraits for the dome of Memorial Hall at a cost of slightly over $30 each. The upper row, numbered one to 12, was called Banker's Row. The lower row, numbered 13 to 24, was the Colonel's Row and contained portraits of local Regimental Commanders of the Civil War. Originally there were 17 portraits and seven colored panels.

In May 1915, the portrait of Nicholas Filbeck, who had recently died, was ordered to fill panel 23. His description was given for the artist's instruction as "eyes dark grey, complexion olive, hair black." Plans were made to install it before Memorial Day.

Kemper & Co., with offices in the Grand Opera Building in 1911, built a six-foot stone wall with a wooden gate enclosing the rear of the Memorial Hall property at a cost of $128.

Memorial Hall, opened for occupancy 150 years ago this month, is the city's oldest building. It survives despite uncertain leadership and lack of long-range planning.

Community Affairs File
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Courthouse handsomest in 1880s

Community Affairs
JAN 12 1986 TS
~~Courthouse~~
Clark, Dorothy J

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VIGO COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

Historically speaking

Clark is Vigo County's official historian and formerly worked for The Terre Haute Tribune.

By Dorothy Clark
Special to The Tribune-Star

Clues pertaining to local architecture, past and present, can be found in many places: newspaper clippings, yearly lists of new construction in the city and photo pages in rotogravure sections of souvenir editions of local papers.

Then there are property abstracts, tax records, city directories, county histories and atlases — every possible source there is to locate a building and determine its age and former owners or occupants.

For example, a photo of 1898 shows two new residences in Terre Haute. One is the home occupied by the widow of George Brokaw, 1318 S. Sixth St. Next door, at 1320, is the not-quite-completed residence of John M. Tune, a partner in Tune Brothers with his brother, Horace C. Tune.

Another photo, taken in 1900, shows one of the three old stone locks of the Wabash & Erie Canal still standing at Old Lockport, now Riley, Ind.

In 1893, when Collett Park was 10 years old, some interesting facts were reported. It seems Collett's gift of 20 acres was enlarged by a purchase of four more acres on the east side.

A "prospect house" had been built on the highest ground at the south entrance. The old black walnut rail fence enclosing the former pasture land had been replaced with an iron fence.

Water works had been extended into the park, and the city planned to build a large fountain. Collett Park became even more popular after the streetcar line was extended to service it.

The Vigo County Courthouse was ordered to be built in 1883. Samuel Hannaford, a well-known architect of Cincinnati, was chosen to design the building and work commenced. The cornerstone was laid Aug. 28, 1884, but it would be four more years before completion. Court was held for the first time in the new courthouse on May 7, 1886, but the formal opening occurred June 7.

The building is an original design of Hannaford, a combination of Corinthian and old-style architecture. It is 88 feet tall with the dome reaching 196 feet, 35 feet taller than the Congregational Church spire which for years was the highest point in the city.

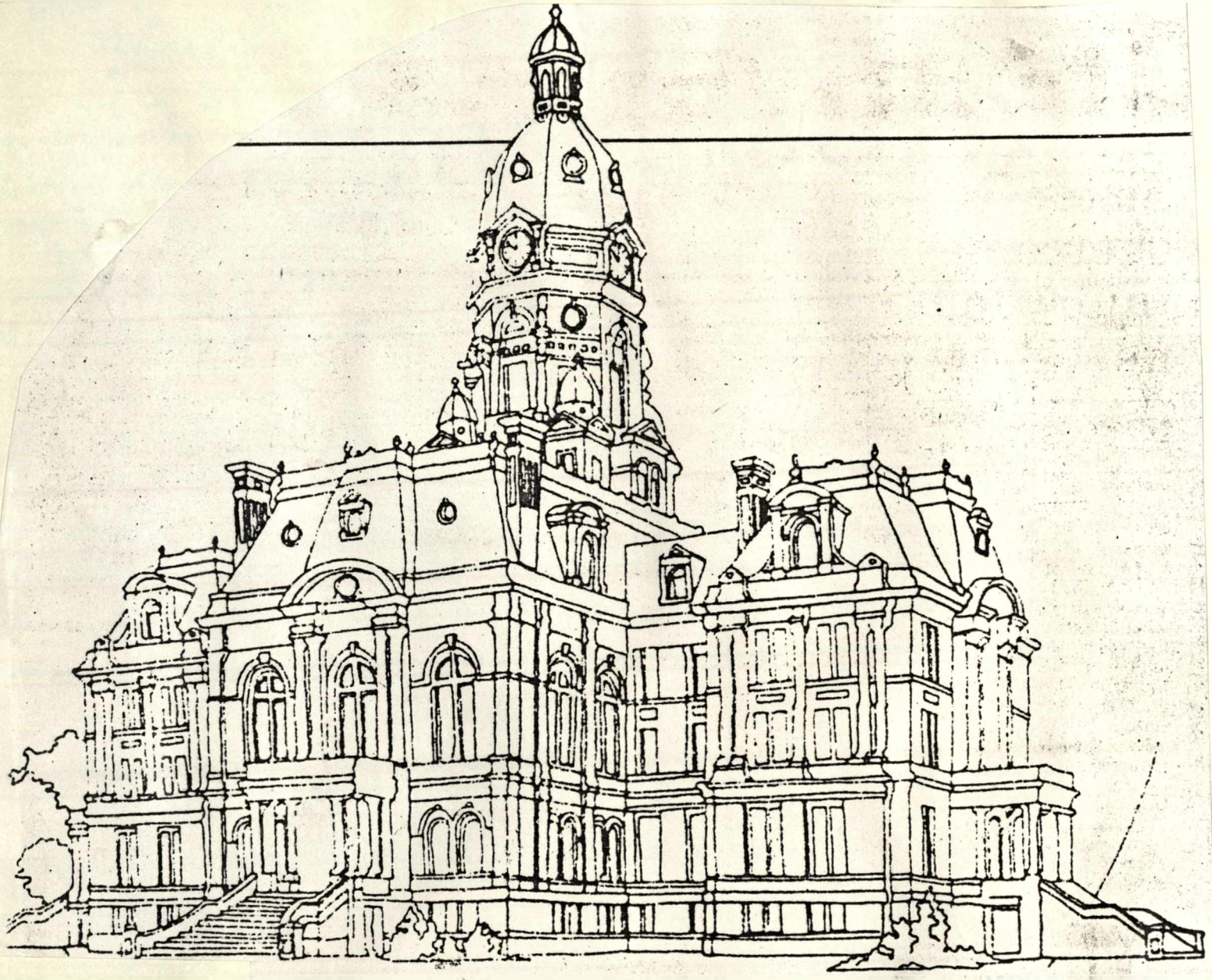
Stilesville stone was used in the construction. Interior rooms were finished in Tennessee marble and ornamental iron and brass work. Costing $430,000, over twice as much as was originally ordered, it was generally agreed that it was the handsomest courthouse in Indiana.

In 1893 a drawing of A. J. Crawford's home at 405 S. Sixth St. appeared in the Terre Haute Evening Gazette. He was president of the Wabash Iron Co., the Vigo Light & Power Co., the Crawford Coal Co. and Kester Electric Co.

That same year, the Delmonico Restaurant, 639 Main St., was 10 years old and judged the most elegant, "out of sight" leading refreshment resort in town. The proprietor, Herman Mewes, formerly of Chicago, was credited with attracting and keeping the most desirable class of patronage, prominent business men and railroad officials, who enjoyed fine wines with excellent food. The large dining rooms had tile floors, corrugated iron ceilings, handsome pictures and decorations, rich black walnut fittings, immense mirrors, crystal and china.

An 1893 drawing is the only reminder of what the Exchange Artesian Bath House, 1009 Chestnut St., looked like. David Bronson was the proprietor of this popular establishment built in 1890 and destroyed by fire in 1921.

In 1893 Crawford Fairbanks' imposing residence stood at 402 S. Sixth St. A handsome iron fence surrounded the corner property. The residence of R. G. Geddes, vice president and treasurer of Havens & Geddes as well as the Terre Haute Shoe Co., was a showplace



at 303 S. Sixth St. in 1893.

The residence of Elisha Havens, president of Havens & Geddes and the Terre Haute Shoe Co., was located at 705 S. Fifth St. It was very large, and well landscaped with large trees, shrubbery and an ornamental iron fence in 1893.

William A. Hamilton's new colonial residence at 1235 S. Sixth St. was featured in 1898. It had towers, bay windows, double wooden porch columns and carved railings. He was the general agent for Mutual Life Insurance Co. at 24 S. Sixth, and vice president of Riddle, Hamilton & Co., established in 1863 at 20 S. Sixth St. This latter building was shown in 1893 as a three-story office building, but is now a parking lot.

The Hays Glass Factory at Vandalia and 25th Street was a sprawl of frame buildings connected by covered sheds in 1900. The photo shows a horse-drawn cart and piles of lumber near the plant.

In 1897 the Hunter Laundry building at 600-606 Cherry St., carried the name on the copestone above the corner entrance. James Hunter was the owner of this successful business which stood where the new School of Technology building now stands on the campus of Indiana State University.

A small drawing of 1893 shows the residence of W. P. Ijams, 400 N. Seventh St. He was president of Terre Haute Packing Co. This handsome brick residence became Gillis Funeral Home and was finally demolished to make way for the Shrine Temple parking lot.

David Kiefner ran a saloon at 508 Cherry St. By 1900 he had built a new flat (apartment house) at 115 N. Fifth St. A parking lot occupies the ground there now, too.

The residence of George Maier, southeast corner of Center and Park Streets at 903 S. Center, was photographed in 1897. It was set off by a stone and concrete block fence with an iron pipe railing. He was the assistant manager of the American Distributing Co., Terre Haute Distilling Co. Branch.

There are many different photos of C. C. Smith's store at the southeast corner of Third and Wabash. After all, he established his original business in 1842. One photo taken in 1898 when it was C. C. Smith's Sons Co., shows a busy business selling stoves, ranges, furnaces, kitchen furniture, farm implements and bicycles, along with surreys, phaetons, road wagons and all styles of carts.

The old building is gone, but instead of another parking lot, MAB Paints has a handsome new building, erected in 1984. Signs of change and progress in Terre Haute.

Vigo County Public Library

Original Union Hospital was two-story frame house

Community Affairs File

Ts JAN 29 1986

Clark, Dorothy J.

Hospitals (T-H)

Historically speaking

Clark is Vigo County's official historian and formerly worked for The Terre Haute Tribune.

By Dorothy Clark
Special to The Tribune-Star

Research into local architecture is always rewarding, but very much so when photos taken in 1898 of Union Hospital come to light. At that time the hospital was in a two-story frame house on North Seventh Street north of Eighth Avenue.

Four smaller photos show the operating room, kitchen, reception room and Room 16 of the Women's Ward. The latter two rooms were furnished by the King's Daughters and showed many homey touches not evident in modern hospitals — like fancy wallpaper, cloth-draped fireplace mantels, wicker tables, wooden rockers, bookcases, pitcher and bowl sets, gas lights and flowered carpet.

A drawing of Joseph Strong's residence at 428 S. Sixth St., was included in a collection of prominent homes in Terre Haute in 1893. It featured round rooms, massive chimneys and ornamental stonework porches. A photo of the one-story colonial residence of James P. Stunkard, 821 S. Fifth St., was published in 1897.

A special camera was used in 1900 to photograph the viaduct of the Terre Haute-Brazil Electric Street Car line over the Vandalia tracks at Glenn, six miles east of town. This viaduct was of steel and built under the supervision of general manager C. B. Kidder from July 7 to Sept. 1, 1900. Its estimated weight was 200 tons. The 5 percent grade was 900 feet long and 27 feet above the tracks at its highest point of 22 feet.

Thatcher Parker was the contractor for the steel structure, and Knisely & Earl built the brick foundation. It was necessary at places to drive pilings in order to get a firm foundation. The viaduct was necessary because the railroad company objected to a grade crossing and the street car company believed it was the best way to insure passenger safety.

Another panoramic photo was taken in 1900 of the new plant of the Terre Haute Glass Company, known as the Streeter Glass Works, on the south side of Maple Avenue, east of 13th Street.

An 1893 drawing of the lovely home of Col. R. W. Thompson at 1214 S. Sixth St., puzzles present day students of architecture as to how it could be cut in two and each half moved to another location where they still serve as private residences. Once known as Rowdy Hall when it was owned by a wealthy young man from Baltimore, the house still showed evidences of his wild target practice when under the influence of alcohol.

In 1893, the Wood, Williams & Co., 23-25 S. Fourth St., was a two-story building flush with the sidewalk. They sold carpets, furniture, stoves and home furnishings. The firm was established about 1883 by Charles Wood and his son, William J. Charles E. Williams joined them in 1891. Any customer who mentioned reading the firm's newspaper advertisement was entitled to a $1 discount on any purchase over $10.

On the north side of Wabash a little west of Second Street stood a three-story brick building with unusual architecture known as the Juniata Iron Store of Alex. McGregor. First he dealt in hardware, then he built a large distillery on South First Street. When the federal government passed the first act taxing whiskey, he had over a million gallons of whiskey in storage. As the tax was imposed on the manufacture, approximately $1 a gallon, he is said to have been the first millionaire in Terre Haute. He also had many other business interests here.

On the southwest corner of Third and Ohio stood the two-story brick built in 1824 by Lucius H. Scott as his residence and store. Later it became the home of Judge Huntington and the offices of a succession of lawyers. It was razed in 1933.

In 1909 it was announced that Dr. W. E. Bell was going to build a modern flat (apartment) building on his property on the south side of Poplar at the first alley east of Sixth Street. The plans were drawn by Architect C. W. Padgett with a 36 foot frontage, 140 feet deep with garage, three floors, with his office in the basement, and four four-room flats on each floor. The initial cost of this structure was approximately $15,000. At this writing the Bell Apartments are still standing.

Dr. James McCall hired architect Samuel Craig to draw up plans for a handsome new home to be built on Fruitridge Avenue in the spring of 1909. The projected cost of this residence was $7,000.

In the spring of 1906 a new "Figure Eight" roller coaster type thrill ride was under construction at Lakeview Park on east Wabash Avenue. A photo shows officials looking over the structure which was "expected to be one of the most popular things on the grounds."

In 1924 the Wadley Company, poultry and egg dealers at First and Poplar, built a building costing $150,000 to double the capacity of their plant. Beginning in 1913 with 15 employees, Wadley Co. had grown to a work force of 75. They served as a market for the farming territory of the Wabash Valley with buying stations at Farmersburg, Sullivan, Carlisle, Marshall, Martinsville, Casey and Rockville.

F. J. Tiedman, first vice president and manager of the local plant, was the only Terre Hautean of Wadley & Co. S. C. Wadley, president; R. R. Regan, second vice president; and Peter Triller, secretary-treasurer; were all of Indianapolis. Shipping products all over the United States, the distributing office and cold storage center was in Syracuse, N.Y.

As soon as the new plant was in operation, canned eggs were to be a speciality. The eggs were broken, packed in cans and frozen to be used by bakeries throughout the country. This building is still in use and owned by Mechanical Suppliers.

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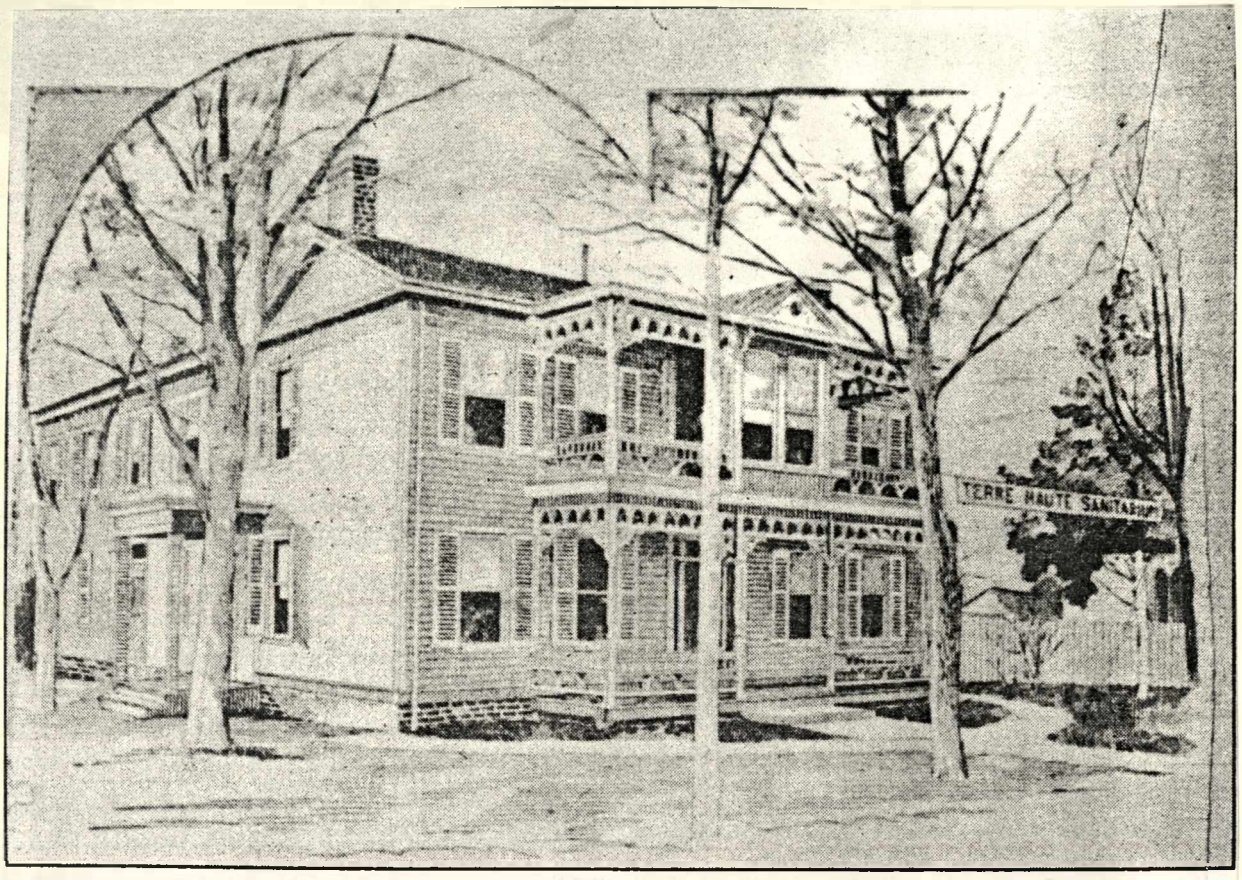
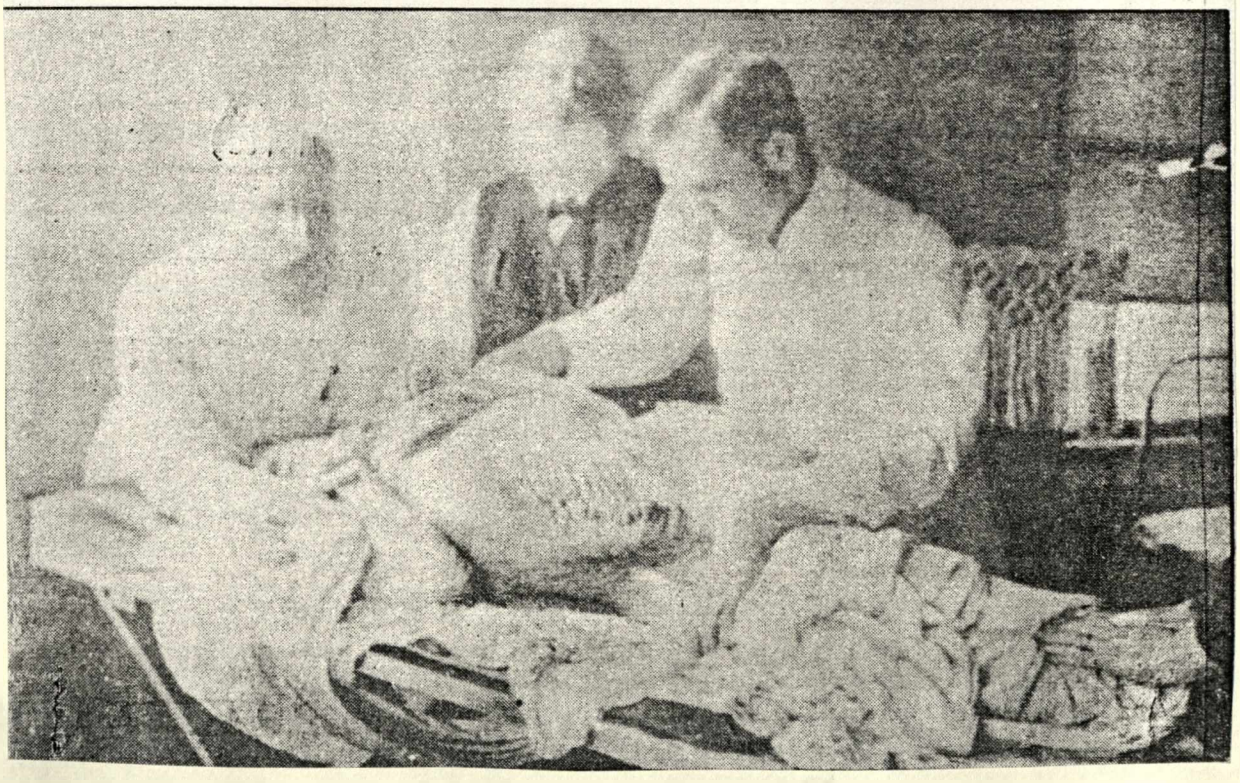


Vigo County Historical Society

Terre Haute Sanitarium

Terre Haute Sanitarium, located at Seventh Street and Eighth Avenue, became Union Hospital in 1902. A description of the sanitarium relates this information: "Additions to the "Old Home" afford capacity for 30 patients. The grounds are ample and adorned with forest trees ... All cases, medical and surgical, excepting those of an infectious nature, are received for treatment. .... " Members of the board of directors were Benjamin F. Swafford, M.D., W. C. Eichelberger, M.D., Stephen J. Young, M.D., E. E. Glover, M.D., L. J. Weinstein, M.D., Will E. Bell, M.D., Charles Gerstmeyer, M.D, J. R. Crapo, M.D., and J. A. Cooper, M.D.



as a bell

Courthouse (VF) Clark, Dorothy

Courthouse issue now clear

T.S. JUL 6 1986

Historically speaking

Clark retired as The Tribune-Star women's editor in 1980. She has written a local history column for 30 years. She is Vigo County Historian.

By Dorothy J. Clark
Special to The Tribune-Star

One error in written history goes on and on, as long as there is a shred of paper and ink to be read and passed on to another reader. That's why it is such a responsibility to be as accurate as humanly possible when writing local history.

A case in point is the story of the Vigo County courthouse bell and what became of it. Back in 1927 "Nation's Business Magazine" carried a story about a bell in the courthouse at Terre Haute, Ind., "whose every note sounds a warning against government ownership, telling the world that the government is the poorest kind of business man possible."

The magazine article went on to explain about the bell that was "a bequest from Francisco Vigo, a Spaniard, to the people of Terre Haute." Here are three errors. He was Col. Francis Vigo; he was born in Italy, not Spain; and he gave $500 for a bell to the people of Vigo County.

The magazine told how Vigo had financially supported the campaign of George Rogers Clark to take Vincennes. When the war was over, all Vigo had to show for his patriotism was an order of the treasury signed by a Virginia commander.

Trying to collect this badly needed debt was impossible. Vigo's claim became a joke, and "red tape had enmeshed another victim. Congress didn't know just what to do about it. The House would order payment, the Senate would vote it down. Or it would work the other way around. His claims were lost in a maze, as various bureaus and congressional committees postponed action."

The Terre Haute newspaper reporting the article in the national magazine in 1927 told how "Old Vigo died a pauper, all his capital owed him by a stagnant debtor. He was carted to a pauper's grave in Vincennes in 1836. In 1875, about a hundred years [illegible] the time he had helped Clark, Uncle Sam woke up and took the claims from the red tapers and paid his heirs in full. Terre Haute had his will bequeathing the bell. It was placed in a new courthouse.

"Now, when it rings out, its melodious tones remind Americans that the government will pay, if given time, and that maybe it isn't best to extend government too far into business."

The above is the truth, but not the whole truth. There was still a time lag between the will bequest granting the $500 and the building of the present courthouse.

The first little courthouse built in about 1822 had no bell in its cupola when Col. Vigo visited here on his 90th birthday. When he saw the empty cupola and the need for a bell, he saw a way to repay the people of Vigo County for the honor of naming their county after him. This was the reason for his will bequest. The first courthouse soon fell into disrepair and was torn down.

The second courthouse, the so-called temporary courthouse across the street on the northeast corner of Third and Ohio, was built and used until the present, and third, courthouse was ready for occupancy in 1886.

The second courthouse was probably the most permanent "temporary" building known, but there were many reasons, too many to go into in this column. The bell that has caused the confusion was the bell mounted in a scaffold-like tower adjoining the rear of the temporary or second courthouse. This bell was used to alert the public to fire, disaster, important events like court openings.

After the present courthouse was in operation, the real Vigo Bell provided by Col. Vigo's will bequest and a lot more money from the county treasury, $2,000, was placed in the tower in 1887 and can be viewed there today.

The smaller bell that had been used in the second courthouse was taken down and later loaned to the church of black Methodists, who placed it in their bell tower at the northwest corner of Third and Crawford streets. The church is now known as Allen Chapel. The church was destroyed by fire some years later and the bell was lost in the debris of the fire.

Later, parishioners of this church heard about the courthouse

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bell on loan to their church and mistakenly supposed it to be the Vigo Bell because it came from a courthouse. In the first place, the present Vigo Bell weighs two tons and was never hung any place except its present location.

William H. Duncan was assistant secretary of the Chamber of Commerce in 1927 when all this misinformation came to light and into the hands of a lazy newspaper reporter. A self-proclaimed "old time citizen and chronicler of Terre Haute history and events," Duncan informed the newspaper that this was the old bell which was used in Vigo County's first courthouse and afterwards removed to the temporary temple of justice at Third and Ohio.

"Later on when the last named building was abandoned for judicial purposes," Duncan said, "the board of county commissioners in a streak of generosity loaned the bell to the colored Methodists, who placed it in their church on Third and Crawford ... nothing has been heard since of the relic which has been lost to Terre Haute. What became of it anyhow?"

After some investigation, the next day it was learned that the fire bell from the temporary courthouse had been taken across the street to the present building and stored away. A black janitor at the courthouse, William Howard, spied it and asked Judge William Mack, then Circuit Court Judge, if the unused bell could be placed in the tower of Allen Chapel.

Judge Mack told Howard, a trustee of the church, that the bell could not be sold to the church, but could be placed in the care of the congregation. The bell was hung in the church until 1914 when it was completely destroyed by fire.

In 1919, the Rev. G. W. Williams came to Allen Chapel and Mrs. Duffy and other older members prevailed upon him to have the bell "dug up" and placed in the tower of the newly built church. This was accomplished with great difficulty.

In 1927, Mrs. Duffy reported that she left her home for the church at the toll of the old bell that had been warning local residents of fire danger since the Civil War and had been believed lost.

Let's hope this clears up the bell controversy for all time. Just remember — Courthouse No. 1, no bell; Courthouse No. 2, small bell later loaned to black church; Courthouse No. 3, authentic Vigo Bell still hangs in tower especially built for it.

monumental efforts

Stonework perpetuates

Clark, Dorothy

Ts MAY 0 3 1987

Man's desires to perpetuate his memory and the deeds he performed was fulfilled in the stone monuments he erected following the wars he survived.

Within a few years after a conflict, a rash of new monuments would break out all over the country. The expensive Soldiers and Sailors monument in the Circle at Indianapolis is a good example. The smaller one on the lawn of the Vigo County Courthouse in Terre Haute, dedicated May 25, 1910, is a good example on a county level.

The monument here cost more than $25,000. The bust of Col. Richard W. Thompson nearby was erected by his long associates and friends at the bar of the county courts.

High about these two hangs a monument or memorial to Col. Francis Vigo who left $500 in his will for the bell in the courthouse tower. A proper inscription was cast on the bell giving him credit.

The first so-called living memorial in town was Memorial Stadium erected in honor of the World War I soldiers. A number of our city parks are named in honor of some of the citizens whose lives were given largely to the betterment of the community. Some were named for the donor, others for those who pushed for their establishment, and still others have had their names changed because of pressure brought to bear on the city council.

Tombstones are monuments to individuals. Woodlawn Cemetery established in 1838 contains the dead of every war the United States has been involved in from the Revolutionary War to the more recent conflicts.

The imposing statue of an elk in Highland Lawn marks the last resting place of many dedicated members of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks.

A small monument was erected in the circle of Woodlawn Cemetery by the federal government for the soldiers of the Confederate Army who died as prisoners of war in Terre Haute.

A memorial circle in Highland Lawn was planned by Civil War veterans and was dedicated to soldiers of that war.

The John Morton Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution, dedicated a government marker in 1913 at the grave of Joseph Dickson, Revolutionary War veteran buried in Grandview Cemetery.

Fort Harrison Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, has marked the graves of several local Revolutionary War veterans with marble headstones and ceremonies. The ladies also placed a bronze tablet on Hook School, Fourth and Mulberry streets, in 1923. It was the first public school in Terre Haute.

One wonders what became of all the bronze tablets in Terre Haute. One was placed at the entrance of Indiana State Normal School's library in 1920 in honor of the students who served in World War I and in special memory of the 17 men who gave their lives.

A table commemorating the 50th anniversary of President William W. Parson's connection with Normal was dedicated in the library in 1920. Another table was placed there honoring Albert R. Charmen, a distinguished teacher.

Lucy W. Monninger (1878-1900), a teacher at Collett School, 10th and Linden streets, was remembered with a marker in memory of her ability as a teacher.

A tablet was erected on the

Historically speaking

Clark retired as The Tribune-Star women's editor in 1980. She has written a local history column for 30 years. She is Vigo County Historian.

By Dorothy J. Clark
Special to The Tribune-Star

Vigo County Public Library

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE

campus of Wiley High School by the school board in 1924 to honor "Josiah T. Scoville, M.D., A.B., M.A., (1841-1915), Civil War soldier, eminent scientist, master teacher."

The monument to Claude Herbert, hero of the downtown department store fire where he lost his life in 1898, was a public drinking fountain erected at Fifth and Wabash. It had been damaged by runaway horses and automobiles so often it was moved for safekeeping to the area between City Hall and the courthouse.

The first memorial tree planting took place in 1921 when the Greater Terre Haute Club planted 253 trees on 25th Street between Hulman Street and Margaret Avenue in memory of the Vigo County men who died during World War I.

An iron framework in the shape of an umbrella and covered with vines was located in Collett Park by the city and dedicated to Fred A. Ross, gallant Civil War soldier and ideal mayor. Later a stone monument was erected in Highland Lawn to the memory of Mayor Ross by his friends.

Paul Dresser (1859-1906), composer of Indiana's state song, "On The Banks of the Wabash, Far Away," has been honored with several local monuments — Dresser Drive along the river, a monument circle 700 feet in diameter at the west end of the Wabash Avenue bridge, and his restored birthplace used as a museum at First and Farrington streets. A state highway marker is placed in front of the museum.

Other highway markers honor George Rogers Clark, the site of Fort Harrison and its historic cemetery, the site of Camp Vigo north of Collett Park where the 14th, 31st and 43rd regiments of Indiana infantry trained during the Civil War (there should be one to honor Camp Dick Thompson, another Civil War training camp at Poplar and Brown). Even a German gun captured at Boucilly by French troops in World War I is a local monument.

Courthouse monument huge object of curiosity

Clark, Dorothy

Ts MAY 29 1988

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The Soldiers and Sailors Monument on the courthouse lawn at Third Street and Wabash Avenue attracts the attention of tourists, travelers and newcomers. They stop to photograph it from all angles, read the inscriptions and ask questions like "Who is the man standing on top?"

Longtime residents scarcely give it a thought as they drive by. After all, it's always been there.

But as far as knowing the why and wherefore of the monument, the average citizen couldn't answer any questions.

The first funds to erect this Civil War memorial were solicited in May 1866, the same year Gen. Logan, national commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, set May 30 as the day to decorate soldiers' graves.

The fund grew until 1872 when Frank Crawford, Newton Rankin, and Nicholas Filbeck met with Judge Isaac N. Pierce in his office. A second meeting was conducted in June in the Filbeck Hotel with interested citizens.

This small group wondered if it were possible to raise $5,000, and, if so, they would content themselves with however large a monument that sum would provide.

First they tried to get every Civil War veteran to join their association and pay $1 annual dues. This plan was only partly successful. In 1880 there was only $1,700 in the fund. By 1895 there was $2,700. This was the year that the Indiana General Assembly passed a law empowering the county commissioners to appropriate money to build monuments.

The dedicated but dwindling group got up a petition and presented it to the Vigo County commissioners requesting $20,000. The amount was granted, and at the same time came a donation of $500 from Col. A.V. Crane of the 85th Indiana Volunteers. Added to this was a bequest of $2,000 from the will of Col. William E. McLean. Now the fund totaled $27,000.

Pressure was being exerted to have the monument placed in the park at 14th Street and Wabash. It was the ideal setting for a monument in the center circle where the fountain used to be.

But there was great sentiment attached to the plot of ground where the monument was eventually placed. This was the spot where many of the former Civil War soldiers had enlisted. To the music of the fife and drum, these young men had walked up to the recruiting table and signed their names to fight for their country. The committee was firm in the belief that this was the proper place.

Before the money became available, Pierce had attended the dedication of the monument at the Tippecanoe battleground and was impressed with its beauty. He was in favor of using white granite from the quarries at Barre, Vt.

Competing in drawing designs for Terre Haute's monument were 18 architects. The same man who drew plans for the Tippecanoe monument won the competition and was paid $600 for his work.

Six firms submitted bids for its construction, and the contract was awarded to Wey & Barcus, a local firm, for $21,826. Of the 17 men who met 38 years earlier when the monument was only a dream, only four remained to see its completion — Crawford, Filbeck, Pierce, and I.L. Mahan.

Dedication ceremonies were set during the week-long state encampment of the GAR in Terre Haute in May 1910. On May 25, the monument was officially presented by the association to Vigo County.

Following a huge parade from Eighth and Ohio streets to the courthouse lawn, dignitaries took their places on the platform erected on the east steps of the courthouse. The 1st Regimental Band along with the Clinton Glee Club were seated behind the speakers. Maj. Frank Crawford, association president, acted as chairman.

The two-hour program included prayers, speeches and music. Finally the monument honoring the men from Terre Haute and Vigo County who had given their lives in the War of the Rebellion nearly half a century earlier was properly dedicated and accepted by Vigo County.

The four statues, one on each corner, represent the cavalry, infantry, navy and artillery in their uniforms of 1861-1865. A statue of Oliver P. Morton, Indiana's governor during those years, stands on top.

At the base of the monument are four bronze plaques. On the west is inscribed: "Erected by the Board of Commissioners of Vigo County and the Vigo County Monumental Assoc., A.D. 1909." On the Third Street side are the words: "In memory of the Patriotism and Valor of the Soldiers and Sailors of Vigo County in the War of 1861-1865."

On the Wabash Avenue side these words can be read: "On fame's eternal camping ground, Their silent tents are spread, And glory guards with solemn sound, The bivouac of the dead."

On the south side of the monument are these lines of poetry: "Soldiers rest thy warfare o'er, Sleep the sleep that knows no breaking. Dream of battle fields no more, Days of danger — nights of waking."

Vigo County Public Library
Community Affairs File
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Courthouse was center of business in the 1830s

Ts MAR 19 1989

Clark Dorothy

Historically speaking

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Community Affairs File
Vigo County Public Library
REFERENCE
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A century and a half ago most of the business of Terre Haute was done on the streets bounding the courthouse square. What is now Wabash Avenue, or Main Street, was then called National Road Street, and the present Third Street always was called Market Street because that's just what it was, 100 feet wide, with market stalls running down the center of the dirt road.

A new brick market house had just been opened near the Wabash & Erie Canal to accommodate the north side of town. Open hours were from noon to 2 p.m. November to April. For the rest of the year, hours were from 40 minutes before sunrise to an hour and a half after sunrise.

A new city ordinance banned the feeding of horses, cows, hogs and other domestic animals upon any of the sidewalks of the town. The penalty was a fine of $1 for each offense.

Signboards hanging across the streets were ordered taken down. The editor of the Courier commented that "we can now see daylight from one end of the street to the other."

"Before it was a hard matter to look through canvas, plant, tin and sheet iron," he said, "not to say anything about the danger of becoming cross-eyed from the inequality of the posts and lettering."

An ordinance against letting your team run away downtown was enforced. Two men were fined $10 each, but the city council reduced that in half "owing to extenuating circumstances."

The Express reported that "frightened horses in harness split past the office like lightning once a week on the average."

Some 112 establishments carried on 43 kinds of business ranging from gunsmiths to plow-makers. Such a great variety of business in a small town is remarkable, but it was the way it was before railroads could bring in needed goods. A small community had to be more self-sufficient.

We still have boat builders, fur and skin dealers, brass foundries, gunsmiths, but do we still have coopers, dealers in cooper's tools, coppersmiths, rope-makers, soap and candlemakers, and a woolen factory?

Photographers were just arriving in 1850, but they were usually called Daguerreau artists.

A century and a half ago, pork-packing was the biggest business in Terre Haute and all the towns, large and small, up and down the Wabash River.

The meat was packed in barrels and shipped down river in flatboats to New Orleans and other towns on the way. Nearly 10 million pounds of pork and lard were believed to have been shipped down the Wabash in a year.

In the winter of 1850-51, Terre Haute packed 66,600 hogs; Graysville 13,000; Vincennes, 11,000; Clinton 10,000; Newport 5,000; Montezuma 5,000; Durkee's Ferry 5,000; Hutsonville 4,400; Merom 1,700; and Darwin 1,200.

The only other town on the Wabash which packed over 10,000 hogs was Lafayette with 38,600.

According to the toll-keepers of the wagon bridge here, nearly 24,000 hogs were driven across the river along with over 13,000 beef cattle. There was no way to count the droves of hogs from the north, south and east.

The pork-packing plants here were located on the river front, north and south of the bridge which crossed the river from the foot of Ohio Street at that time.

The cooperage business was located just east of the slaughter houses. But changes were on the way. The Wabash & Erie Canal opened to the north in 1849, and to Evansville in 1852. This would bring commerce and changes in the old west end.

In 1850 the telegraph would connect Terre Haute with the outside world. An editorial in the Wabash Courier tells how "the telegraph wires, as they pass through the glass of each pole, discourse very pretty music. We do not know that this music is resolvable into notes, but it is nevertheless very sweet. On the Wabash bridge particularly are these sounds remarkable. On a clear night the wires stretching across give music closely resembling the Aeolian harp. What a splendid place for young lovers under these wires, any time before midnight, with or without a bright moon."

The opening of the railroads, east, north, south and west, followed in quick succession from 1852 on. The first station in Terre Haute was at 10th and Main, where the Vandalia freight office was for so many years.

The Beste family from England noted that "Gum-chewing among the girls was already very common in 1850 in Terre Haute . . . they chew Burgundy pitch, as the gentlemen chew tobacco."

Crime was not common in 1850 here, but after-dark house burglaries were becoming more numerous. An editorial warned wrong-doers that "firearms are prepared, and it may be well not to carry this matter of housebreaking too far." The matter was really more serious than that, because the council offered a reward of $50 for the arrest and conviction of every offender. As we have said, the old times were beginning to pass away.

History on display

Clark, Dorothy

Interest in 31-year-old Vigo museum remains high

APR 0 2 1989

Historically speaking

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By Dorothy J. Clark
Special to The Tribune-Star

In the 31 years the Historical Museum of the Wabash Valley, 1411 S. Sixth St., has been open to the public, it has attracted many thousands of visitors.

Old and young alike find much to interest them. Attendance is boosted, of course, by the busloads of school children on field trips each year. Some people come to visit whatever they have donated to the museum over the years.

Owned and operated by the Vigo County Historical Society Inc., the museum has exhibit room on three levels. On the main floor are four display rooms and two hallways. On the second floor are the Victorian parlor, bedroom, nursery, boutique, schoolroom, and other displays. The meeting room and two display rooms are located in the basement.

Visitors are as interested in the house itself as in the museum displays. Built in 1868 by William H. Sage, local confectioner and baker, the house was enlarged by its second owner, Henry H. Robinson, prominent local merchant.

During Robinson's ownership, several rooms were added, ornate chandeliers installed, and the brick home became a perfect example of Italianate architecture, a popular building style in America during the middle-19th century.

Typical features are the bay windows, low-pitched hip roof crowned by a flat deck, porches set in the angles of the walls, windows with curved tops and small attic windows laternated with brackets under the broad eaves.

Visitors admire the lamp post at the east entrance sidewalk and the old stone buhr from the castor-oil mill which operated in Sugar Creek Township. The front walk is made of slabs of old stone. Huge old trees (with some younger replacements) shade the front lawn.

Young visitors are attracted by the 20-foot totem pole, the gift of Chapman S. Root, which was transplanted from the grounds of the former Root estate in Allendale.

Entrance through the heavily-carved walnut doors leads into the front hall where the curving stairway winds up into the second floor and storage attic.

Many local visitors enjoy renewing acquaintance with "Mercury," the statue from atop McKeen's Bank at the northwest corner of Sixth and Wabash, and the colorful carved wooden figure of "Punch" who stood in front of Biel's Tobacco Store, 420 Wabash Ave., for so many years. Punch arrived in Terre Haute in 1867.

The enormous oil painting of old Fort Harrison as it looked in 1812 catches attention, as do so many of the art works seen during a tour of the museum. The beautiful red glass doors, another typical Victorian feature of the house, are admired at the north-entrance door.

The military room dominates the northwest corner of the main floor, while the museum's office fills the southwest corner. The military room displays items from all the wars, from the Revolutionary War to the Korean Conflict.

Displays in the glass cases in the various rooms change with the seasons and special interests. Loan exhibits frequently are enjoyed for several weeks.

Visitors notice the white marble mantel in the south room on the main floor. There are six black marble mantels in other rooms, and a pioneer wooden mantel in the basement. Visitors marvel that the house with its very high ceilings could have been heated with fireplaces before the days of central heating.

Two outstanding grandfather clocks are greatly admired. One is the gift of the Ben Blumberg family; the other the gift of the Templeton family which stood originally in the old state house at Springfield, Ill. Abraham Lincoln is said to have set his watch by this old clock.

Cradles, children's toys, mannequins dressed in period costumes, quilts, coverlets, china, silver, statuary attract the admiration of visitors.

The old loom, which still operates, demonstrates how to weave better than a book. Interested visitors can try their hand at operating the loom with its complicated treadles, shuttles and rag-carpet materials wound into balls.

Interesting exhibits in the lower level include Indian artifacts, a fine collection of Kachina dolls given by Fanny Blumberg, farm equipment used in pioneer days, and models of many more.

Admission to the museum is free. However, many visitors drop generous donations in the contribution box provided for these voluntary gifts. The society's greatest expense is operating the museum and the Paul Dresser Birthplace in Fairbanks Park.

Membership in the society is open to all interested persons, and includes a publication and a discount at the souvenir desk. New members always are welcome, and the bronze plaques of life memberships continue to expand. Meetings of the society always are open to the public.

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Community Affairs File
Vigo County Public Library

Early jail had rich history

Ts MAY 03 1992

Historically speaking

Clark retired as The Tribune-Star's women's editor in 1980. She has written a local history column since 1956. She is Vigo County Historian.

By Dorothy J. Clark
Special to The Tribune-Star

At the northwest corner of Third and Walnut streets in 1824 stood the jail for which proposals were asked at the first session of the Vigo County Commissioners. While the advertisement gave only scanty information as to construction of the new courthouse, it gave nothing at all regarding the jail to be built.

Eventually, however, the building was finished and ready for use. It was a two-story structure 18 feet square on the inside with a firm stone foundation. Outside of this single room enclosed by white oak logs was a second wall also of oak logs. Between these, upright poles were set to prevent any attempt to escape by cutting through the logs.

This was not as good a plan as that employed in the construction of the old log jail in Brown County. In that case, the space between the walls was filled with gravel, and any attempt to cut through would have produced results that would at least astonish the jail breaker.

In front of this building, but separated from it by a space of six feet, was a frame building that provided living quarters for the sheriff. A common roof covered both buildings.

The jail proper was the lower floor which had neither door nor windows. It was entered only through a trapdoor in the floor above. A prisoner was taken to the upper floor, the trapdoor lifted, and a ladder that hung conveniently nearby was lowered and the man invited to descend the ladder that then was drawn up and the trapdoor closed. The sanitary conditions, the feeding and sleeping facilities are best left to the imagination.

From time to time, the commissioners established "prison bounds" within which prisoners were permitted to roam at will in order that they might care for their families, if any, or gain some money or goods that would relieve the county of the expense of their confinement in jail.

The first record was made before the jail even was started. It included only the limits of the town, from Water to First, and Oak to Eagle. Within these limits the prisoner was free and apparently no one ever was guilty of the violation of his parole.

In 1821, the limits were extended to reach the river at its low water mark.

In 1825, the jail having been completed, the bounds were extended to include the territory within a distance of 600 yards in each direction from the jail. As this order was made in April, it may be that a prisoner could cross the river during the summer bathing season or work for Mr. Rose in his cornfield beyond Seventh Street, supposing he had a cornfield there.

The first Vigo County Courthouse was a two-story brick building that had its construction problems from its very beginning. It was to be 55 feet square. Built between 1818 and 1825, the work finally was finished.

The stonework came from a quarry near the mouth of Coal Creek, about six miles above Terre Haute. The commissioners were John Hamilton, a Revolutionary War veteran; Isaac Lambert and Ezra Jones.

The newspaper advertisement in the Western Sun at Vincennes was dated "Fort Harrison, March 31st, 1818."

It was demolished in 1867 after sale for $175, to make way for the present courthouse which was not ready until 1885.

Nearly 20 years is a very long time for the county to use a so-called "temporary" courthouse. We're learning, however, this courthouse is being remodeled, repaired, "restored" and updated.

An undated yellowed clipping in my files told how "the last wall of Vigo County's second jail has been razed. For a week, wreckers have been demolishing the old jail at South Third and Walnut streets, which was built in 1854. From that date until 1890, when the present bastile (the one on Ohio Street) was erected, the building was used. Before it there was a log jail on the same location."

The only three men legally hanged in the county were hanged during the use of the old jail.

The first was Diaz who had killed a man out in the country. His hanging was a public affair on Strawberry Hill.

The next was a bit more private, that of a man named Bradford, who killed his partner who was traveling with him in a covered wagon. They were traveling west to east. This hanging was in an enclosure in the lot, then vacant, just north of the jail.

This hanging apparently was a such a success that the next one was conducted in the middle of the street intersection in front of the jail. Tickets were distributed by the sheriff. The scaffold was enclosed, and only those with tickets would view the act of satisfying the law and protecting society.

That hanging was of a man named Morgan, who had killed Petri, father of Charlie Petri, later a police officer. Morgan killed Petri in a robbery of the combination saloon and grocery store the latter owned and operated in Twelve Points. Morgan escaped from the jail but was recaptured.

Printers had an awful time with the old English word "gaol" and kept using their interpretation of the word, spelling it "goal." When the term "jail" was commonly used, everyone was happy with the newspapers.

Community Affairs File
VIGO COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
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*Clark, Dorothy

Aviation takes off in Terre Haute

Airfield donated by Hulman dedicated in 1944

Ts SEP 30 1990

Historically speaking

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By Dorothy J. Clark
Special to The Tribune-Star

Dedication ceremonies were conducted Oct. 3, 1944, for Terre Haute's new airport, Hulman Field. Anton Hulman Jr. gave 638 acres of land for the cause.

Since the early history of this city, the Hulman family has always contributed generously to its progress. Hulman's interest in civic advancement and the future of aviation prompted the gift of land for Hulman Field. This made it possible for immediate steps to be taken to secure federal appropriations totaling $1.5 million for the project.

Farms were acquired, mineral rights negotiated, wooded groves removed, roads built, and Terre Haute could boast of one of the finest aviation fields in the country within three miles of the city limits. Generous citizens, and civic and labor organizations gave imposing sums for the buildings and hangars.

On dedication day, the flag was raised by Squadron 526-1 Civil Air Patrol Cadets, Lt. Shannon D. Buntin in charge.

The air show that followed included flights of 27 C-47 planes of the Troop Carrier Command from George Field, a flight of two C-47 planes with gliders in tow, a demonstration of the pickup of a glider by one of these planes, the arrival of a TWA passenger plane, and other aerial events.

Music was furnished by the Civil Air Patrol Cadet Band and the Elks Chanters.

At 3:30 p.m., the speech-making began, followed by the official dedication and guest reception an hour later at the Terre Haute House. At 6:30 p.m., Gov. Henry F. Schricker was the principal speaker for the dinner in the Mayflower Room.

The first Board of Aviation Commissioners of the City of Terre Haute was created in 1929. Mayor Ora D. Davis appointed Harry E. Fitch, president; Robert F. Prox, vice president; Morton F. Hayman, secretary; and Frank H. Jett.

Steps were taken for the acquisition of an airport for the city, and in due time Paul Cox Field was chosen. (This airfield was located on what is now the site of Terre Haute South High School.) On July 27, 1929, the Common Council approved the issuance of bonds totaling $125 million for airport purposes.

In January 1930, the assets of Terre Haute Airways Inc., which was using what was then known as Dresser Airport, were purchased by the board, and by the middle of 1930, 180 acres had been purchased, and the field lighted and fenced.

In March 1930, the first night airmail between Chicago and Atlanta made its first trip and stopped at Terre Haute. Several years later, the name of the field was changed from Dresser Airport to Paul Cox Field in honor of Paul Cox, a World War I flyer and aviation pioneer in this city.

Jan. 1, 1944, the investment of the Board of Aviation Commissioners in Paul Cox Field was $316,847, which included $164,005 expended on the field by the federal government in improvements of grounds and runways.

Hulman Field, like Paul Cox Field, was under the management and control of the Board of Aviation Commissioners. At the time of the dedication, the investment so far in Hulman Field was $116,000 given by Hulman to purchase the ground, and approximately $1.25 million was expended by the federal government in improving the field.

Hulman Field was described as 39 degrees and 26 minutes latitude and 87 degrees and 18 minutes longitude, with an elevation 577.2 feet above sea level. The prevailing wind direction is from the southwest with an average velocity of 9.8 miles per hour. The highest average velocity is 10.2 miles per hour from the south.

The average number of days with wind velocity 32 miles per hour or more is five for each year. The highest wind velocity recorded at this station was 58 miles per hour.

Heavy fog occurs during the fall and winter months with an average of one for each month. Light fog which usually forms in the early morning and ends about 9 a.m. occurs throughout the year with an average of three and a half days for each month.

There have been many changes in the development of Hulman Field — now known as Hulman Regional Airport — in the past 46 years, and more are planned. Aviation makes tremendous progress in both speed and safety.

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Community Affairs File

VIGO COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

Refreshing the fun-seekers

Crowds flocked to Collett for leisure, entertainment

Clark, Dorothy

Ask Historically 1989

J: OCT 29 1989

Historically speaking

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By Dorothy J. Clark
Special to The Tribune-Star

Charles C. LaFollette was looking for other employment when the railroaders went out on strike in 1892. Someone suggested that a refreshment concession at the southeast corner of Eighth Street and Maple Avenue might prove to be a money-making proposition, so he built a frame structure, covered it with canvas, and was soon doing a thriving business selling popcorn, candy, ice cream and soda pop to the crowds on their way to and from Collett Park and the Harrison Park Casino.

This amusement park, according to Roy W. LaFollette, son of Charles, was located just north of Collett Park. From the downtown area, the street cars ran to Eighth and Maple, the end of the line, where the cars reversed their trolleys for the return trip.

Collett Park was very popular during the warm months with its picnics and band concerts, while Harrison Park offered typical Gay Nineties entertainment and free acts along with its other amusement park activities. Another street car track was brought in from the east from the North 13th Street line to handle the crowds.

In 1898 LaFollette could stand in the back door of his small establishment and look east as far as the railroad switching yards at 19th Street. There were very few houses in the area, and Twelve Points was yet to be built as a business district.

According to the city directory, the northernmost house on North Eighth Street in 1896 was owned by the Minnick family. It was listed then as 1829 N. Eighth, but by the turn of the century, there were so many more houses built north of Eighth Avenue, the Post Office issued new house numbers. By 1903 the Minnick's home was listed at 2045 N. Eighth.

Other early long-time residents of North Eighth Street, in the first block south of Collett Park, were the families of Vance, Bryant, Amberger, Mullikin, Irwin, Hammond and LaFollette, whose refreshment stand sported gay-striped canvas awnings and was a favorite place for all the neighborhood children.

The Templeton family moved to 10th and Maple in 1904. In 1906, there were only two houses in the 800 block of Maple Avenue. Charles H. Nichols lived at 817, and 825 was vacant. Two years later it was owned by James H. Crabb.

In 1908, Charles LaFollette built a frame grocery store and confectionery on his original corner property to replace his popcorn stand. Business was very good.

Terre Haute had relatively few confectioneries at that time. Listed as wholesale and manufacturing confectioneries were August E. Eiser, 13-25 S. Ninth; Hulman & Co., 900-920 Wabash; Mewhinney Co., 119-129 N. Ninth; W. H. Sage & Sons, 425 Wabash; and the Terre Haute Candy Co., 203-205 Ohio.

Retail confectioners included Caito Battista, 229 N. Fourth; E.S. Campbell Co., 727 Wabash; Joseph Cerf, 1312 Wabash; Christo Brothers, 1018 Wabash; Copeland Sisters, 203 S. 12th St.; and Peter Georgopoulous, 676 Wabash.

Also, Patrick R. Mahaney, 811 Wabash; Makely & Harkness, 16 S. Fourth; John J. Roumeliote, 826 Wabash; W. H. Sage & Sons, 425 Wabash; Spence & Burroughs, 108 S. Sixth; and LaFollette, 801 Maple Ave.

In 1910, Leslie J. Ulmer took over the location for a drugstore. He had moved from North Seventh Street near Monninger's Winery.

He was succeeded by Mark Jett in 1915. It was about this time LaFollette sold the property and invested in other northend property.

John "Jack" Llewellyn took over the store in 1918. During the five years he owned the business, he gained much business and good will by sponsoring an amateur basketball team known as the "Northside Jacks."

This team won the state amateur championship in 1922, and again in 1923 at Indianapolis. Some of the players on that team were "Babe" and Bernard Wheeler, Harold "Boots" Risher, Howard Calvert, Ross Woodburn, Duke Lovell, "Tubby" Kirchner, and young Proctor from Brazil.

Some of the older boys who played on the "Jett Hustlers," an earlier team sponsored by Druggist Mark Jett, were Philip H. Templeton, O.W. Pendergast, Milton Denny, and George Payne.

Roy H. and Sadie (Beeson) Stewart became the owners of the southeast corner of Eighth and Maple before the 1924 city directory was printed. Generations of northenders and others remember fondly the hours spent at "Sadies." During the summers, the round, marble-top tables and ice cream chairs were set outside under the porch. It was "the place" for teenagers to see and be seen.

Due to a long illness, Sadie Stewart was forced to give up the business and close the store before World War II. The rundown property became an eyesore in the neighborhood. Following her death, the old-fashioned porticoes over the sidewalks were removed, the store was torn down, and the living quarters completely remodeled into an attractive residence.

After landscaping, all evidence of the once popular "Sadies" had disappeared. But many of us will remember "Sadies" with nostalgic memories of the good old days and our youth.

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Historically Speaking

By DOROTHY J. CLARK

Ts JUN 13 1976

The City of Terre Haute is blessed with many beautiful parks. Its citizens are well above the national average in park area per capita with over 950 acres of city park property.

W. S. Rea donated 160 acres located at 7th and Davis Ave. Part of this acreage is now the 18-hole Rea Park Golf Course. His wife, Mrs. Geraldine Rea, donated the fine clubhouse. Lighted tennis courts have been added.

The only riverside park, Fairbanks Park, located at 1st and Park streets, was donated by the late Crawford and Edward P. Fairbanks and Mrs. Helen Fairbanks.

This 38-acre property contains the Chauncey Rose Memorial (facade of the former Post Office) and Amphitheatre, Sunken Gardens, part of Dresser Drive, the restored Paul Dresser Birthplace (Indiana State Shrine and Memorial as well as listed on the National Register of Historic Places), and the Mineral Water Fountain. In earlier days, the city's first public swimming pool was located within the park, but has been removed.

Collett Park, the oldest city park, contains 21.10 acres at 7th and Maple Ave. It was the gift of Josephus and Josephine Collett, parents of Mrs. Crawford Fairbanks.

Spencer Ball Park, 14th and 8th Ave., was named for Spencer Ball, former newspaper editor, as he left income from approximately $25,000 for the use of the Park Department. Used as a baseball field, the park contains 9.86 acres.

Demas Deming donated Deming Blvd., along with $50,000 for improvements, and the city named Deming Park for him. It contains 160 acres east of Fruitridge and Ohio, a duck pond, kiddy rides, a modern swimming pool, and the Larrison Pavilion.

Torner Park and Community House was donated by Rebecca Torner at 4th and College Ave. Simon Levi donated income from $50,000 for music in the parks after the death of his sister.

A portion of Steeg Park was donated by the Beach and Gilbert families. It contains 3.85 acres at 14th and Wabash Ave. Familiarly known as "Hobo Park" through the years, the park was renamed "Gilbert Park" at the urging of the families.

Booker T. Washington Park, 5.32 acres at 13th and College, was the city's only exclusively black park and contained a swimming pool which has been razed. It is now the site of Hyte Community Center.

Sheridan Park, 28th and Beech St., contains 6.5 acres donated by Frank Miller, Albert Owen and Felix Blankenbaker. It now contains one of the city's modern swimming pools.

Some of the other city parks are Herz (or Rose) Park, 5.18 acres at 15th and Locust St.; Voorhees Park, 17.4 acres at Voorhees and Prairieton Road, which contains a swimming pool; and Memorial Park with its sunken athletic field of 9.77 acres at 4th and 8th Ave.; and Graham Park, at 17th and Dean, which has .96 acres.

Triangular ground at Lafayette and Barbour Avenues, known as Boy Scout Park, is the city's smallest park of .21 acre. Thompson Park, 17th and Ohio, has 4.73 acres.

The Stadium Park at 30th and Wabash Ave. offers a nine-hole golf course on its 51.30 acres. The Stadium is owned and operated by Indiana State University.

East of the city on Poplar Street is Dobbs Park with nature trails and study areas for students.

New park properties and facilities are being added with the Brittlebank will bequest, and Tony Hulman's gift of a new 223-acre golf course at the east edge of the city.

Terre Haute now owns over 950 acres of city parks, many with new children's playground equipment. Flower beds, shrubs and trees are being added to beautify one of the finest park systems in the country.

Back in 1908, the city was in a turmoil about its parks. The City Council had been in a state of unrest for some time about the possible locations for new city parks, what properties should be secured, and what should be the disposition of the funds resulting from the $70,000 bond issue.

There was no half-hearted or uncertain note in the mayor's plain statement of his personal views. He was convinced that the city should secure that portion of the Pflaging property that lies north of Elm street between 15th and 16th streets. He was confident that the city could acquire what was known as Parsons' Field on South Seventh for a city park.

The board of trustees of the Indiana State Normal School (now ISU) was receptive to the idea. Mayor Lyons was also in favor of securing that part of the river front for a park lying south of Walnut street upon which the artesian well was located. Also that part lying north of the bridge known as the Nelson-Morris property. He advised condemnation proceedings be instituted at once against the Pflaging and river front properties.

When the ordinance was passed concerning the $70,000, it was understood that the money should be applied to the erection of a crematory and the remainder should be used for park purposes. Mayor Lyons proposed to do just that. If there was any residue of the bond issue, he believed it should be applied as far as it would go towards beautifying Chestnut Place Park, Memorial Park, the Pflaging Place, Parsons' Field and Riverside Park.

Mayor James Lyons was nearing the end of his second term in office, and according to the law of that time, could not succeed himself again. He was 49 years old. His children included Mayme, aged 22 years; Helen, 19; Margaret, 17; Anna, 14; Gertrude, 12, and James Jr., aged nine.

Community Affairs File

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